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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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CELAM PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED ON ROLE OF CHURCH

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 22 Mar 81 p D-9

[Interview with Archbishop of Medellin Alfonso Lopez Trujillo by Maria Elena Gronemeyer, date and place not given]

[Text] The bishops themselves call the church's mission on the continent difficult and complex. Because of that they are obliged to meet periodically to share opinions and review the major pastoral tasks, which were planned a little more than a decade ago in the General Conference at Medellin, and 2 years ago in Puebla. This time, the 18th Ordinary Assembly of the Latin American Bishop's Conference [CELAM] was held in Chile from the 16th to the 21st of this month.

At the beginning, Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, Archbishop of Medellin, sought to use the press to clarify his ideas, such as the theology of liberation and preferential choice for the poor. In order to study these points more thoroughly and to find out about this week of work in CELAM, EL MERCURIO interviewed Msgr Lopez Trujillo.

Advancing Is Not Everything

[Question] Taking stock of how this meeting has gone and keeping in mind that 2 years have passed since the General Assembly in Puebla, what do you feel is the state of the church in Latin America today?

[Answer] We have a truly encouraging, optimistic impression. One can see great progress in general, primarily in the study and application of the Puebla document in its most important areas. Puebla has been a significant factor for pastoral renewal in the important choices outlined there: choice for the poor, the family, youth, and vocations. Most of the conferences in various countries have based their pastoral plans on the Puebla General Conference, which is very positive. And CELAM has done important work during the past 2 years in its various departments.

[Question] What would you say have been the church's main difficulties in realizing its mission in Latin America?

[Answer] Puebla clearly indicates the difficult areas for pastoral presence, and in that sense we might say that in the social and economic fields the diagnosis made there still holds true. Above all, there is still the tragedy of misery, poverty, unemployment, the lack of participation by the popular sectors in so many aspects of life, without basic human advancement.

Another serious problem is the emergence of areas of conflict and tension the length and breadth of the continent. There are political problems, border problems, and serious ideological problems. These sometimes appear as extremist positions of the right or left, leading to the polarization of groups of people. All this does nothing good for the church.

[Question] And the obstacles within the church itself?

[Answer] In the ecclesiastical field, the problem of vocations is still a somewhat serious one, although an increase in vocations is noticeable in most of the countries. We must be assured of a sufficient number of priests if we are to prevent the lack of an essential element in the spirit of the church.

"National Security Well-Conceived"

[Question] You speak of political problems--what is the present situation of the church in Chile and in Cuba?

[Answer] The bishops of those countries are the ones who can better give you a picture of things there. I speak often, but about Latin America as a whole.

[Question] In the Puebla document, they speak of military governments and doctrines of national security. What do they have to do with the mission of the church?

[Answer] Things said in Puebla about the doctrine of national security are valid and still apply. There is a clear distinction between acceptable forms of national security. Every country needs domestic and foreign security, and the Holy Father himself in his visit to the United Nations recalled that there is such a thing as well-conceived national security.

The church's problem concerns the introduction of a kind of national security with power concentrated in the hands of a few. That excessive concentration may lead to absolute, indiscriminate use of power. Absolutism, totalitarianism in the idea of national security makes man not an end, but a means, which is plainly condemned by the Puebla Conference.

[Question] Exactly how do you view the presence of military governments on the continent?

[Answer] I would say that in some countries what we are seeing is a political process of return to democracy, as in the case of Peru and Ecuador. Others are consolidating their democracy, such as Venezuela, Colombia, and Costa Rica. And I think that there are some countries in which a dialogue has begun after much bloodshed and they are seeking alternatives by civilized means. That is the case of El Salvador.

[Question] You have raised a series of critical questions about the theology of liberation. What importance is that assuming in Latin America?

[Answer] In CELAM we want to get more and more into a positive level of dialogue, because we believe that there is good will in everyone. At this time there is nothing as urgent in the church as the unity of all of us who profess the same faith.

Regarding the advance of that theology, I think it is a good thing for it to advance... as long as it is a theology of liberation with a sense of evangelical liberation, which is what the church accepts. If it is a theology with outlines of Marxist, or some other, ideology, I do not think that is really advancing. What is important here is to make a distinction between positions and tendencies and to discern which are compatible with the teachings of the church.

Clear Mission

[Question] Considering the realities you have mentioned, what, in your opinion, is the temporal mission of the Latin American church in the political and socioeconomic fields?

[Answer] In the field of politics, it is to help develop political awareness in the light of the Gospel. It is also to train the great leaders, the professionals, the men called upon to build a new society in a Christian manner. Moreover, it is very important for the church to create awareness in sectors, for example, the business sectors, but without getting involved in really political or technical matters, although it should be involved in the ethical problems from which those policies or techniques derive. It is necessary to intensify service to the poor everywhere.

[Question] And the role of the church in keeping the peace on the continent?

[Answer] In the field of international policy, the church should open the way to dialogue, promote unity, serve as a mediator. If some Latin American country were to go to war, the whole continent would be ruined. The sense of peace and collaboration among brother countries must prevail over such a situation.

Two Years After Puebla

[Question] Once the situation of Latin America is analyzed, what points does CELAM plan to make recommendations on?

[Answer] In general, judging from the reports of the conferences, there is a great deal of interest in thoroughly studying the subject of evangelization and the proper basic advancement of those in the most need. The subject of vocations is also important. There is also concern over the great penetration by Protestant sectors in many countries, which becomes a problem when it takes place at the expense of the Catholic Church. The loyalty and respect of our church must be shared with the separated brothers and the sects, and the latter are the greatest problem.

[Question] Have you as a group noted any point in the Puebla document that should be reconsidered or have you found any gaps?

[Answer] The document speaks of what the bishops considered most important at that time. One could not expect it to deal with everything, and history will show the gaps that must be filled and the recommendations that need to be made. For example, many people think that there was not enough time at Puebla to stop to consider what they call a "futurist" view and to creatively prepare the church for the next millenium.

Unity of Opinions

[Question] Certain tendencies have been apparent in the CELAM meetings. How does this situation affect the mission of the church?

[Answer] In the church in Latin America, there is plenty of room for a certain degree of pastoral pluralism. Naturally, we do not all think the same, but we are all in agreement about our faith, about what Puebla establishes, and about what the church asks of us. It is variety in unity, which is part of the wealth of the church. There are no tendencies which cause division but, rather, complementation at the bishops' level. The unity of opinions is given to us by the church, by Puebla, and by the Pope, and I hope it will always be so.

[Question] Are there definite directional lines for CELAM for the next few years? What do you plan to emphasize?

[Answer] We have an overall plan for 4 years, and 2 have passed. Now we are evaluating and reestablishing things which must be stressed more. We will enrich our plan with the recommendations which are approved by a two-thirds majority.

In the next few years, we intend for CELAM and the church to be a greater presence in the neediest countries. Central America, the entire Antilles region, and possibly Bolivia will have priority.

"Overcome Poverty Without Class Struggle"

[Question] You have placed a great deal of emphasis on clarifying the meaning of preferential choice for the poor. Does that mean this option was unclear in Puebla?

[Answer] Things are very clear in the Puebla document. It happens that sometimes interpretations have been made covering basic positions, which are also revealed in Puebla. Therefore the bishops and the Holy Father himself are again recalling the essential in that promise to the poor. Do not think that the promise to the dispossessed can be reduced to a mere political problem. And in no way can the promise to the poor be turned into a sort of class struggle.

[Question] What is this option?

[Answer] We must listen to and encourage the underprivileged. The poor are the privileged sector within the church itself. But that does not mean we will neglect other sectors, much less that we go to serve the poor, not with the Gospel in hand, but with ideologies. Ideologies do not liberate; the Gospel liberates!

[Question] What is the church's stand on equal opportunities for the poor?

[Answer] We have a social doctrine which is seeing a rebirth and in which we have great confidence. There are very clear guiding principles that recognize the dignity of the poor, their capacity for organization, their desire for an answer, their need for liberation, and above all, principles which place the church outside political, economic, ideological systems, capitalism or Marxism. It is understood that the church's own strength is sufficient to serve the poor as they deserve. If we bring more and more wills together, and we are serving the dispossessed more intensely, certain interpretations will lose ground in the future.

Confusion

[Question] How does the church protect itself against erroneous interpretations?

[Answer] The Puebla document does not lend itself to erroneous interpretations. They occurred unintentionally, when whole passages were passed over or when some of their main points were given different meanings. But we are clarifying doctrine, determining teachings, preparing accompanying notes to pastors.

[Question] But the fact that the church must clarify it gives us the impression that there are unclear points and that they may lead to confusion...

[Answer] It is a fact that people think and act differently. It is also a fact that it is our job to clarify things. It seems to me that there is a common awareness that this is enriching. There may be people who are carried away by the confusion. But there may be confused people who are guided by the later clarification.

[Question] Do you consider it necessary to stress achieving a greater degree of agreement among priests in order to avoid uncertainty among Catholics?

[Answer] The church is not a debating club. I think it is the job of bishops to make the principle of unity prevail in the church, and a Christian must be able to take on a mission of fidelity. All opinions are welcome, as long as they are developed after mature thought, with a sense of discipline. The church's sense of communion implies a reverence for its teachings, and therefore faithful obedience to the Pope and bishops.

8587

CSO: 3010/1084

VIOLA'S POSITION STRENGTHENED BY U.S. VISIT

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Mar 81 pp 1, 8

[Article by J. Iglesias Rouco]

[Text] Strengthened on the home front by his visit to the United States, General Viola was briefed yesterday in detail about the growing seriousness of the run to the dollar on the foreign exchange market. In spite of the disagreements that, according to our sources, arose in recent days within the government (or the two governments) as to whether it was or was not a good idea to make public the new package of economic measures before 29 March, last night all indications were that they were about to reach an agreement, at least on the amount of losses that would be incurred if the government waited 10 days more to announce its official decision. According to the experts, the complaints among the populace in that event would trigger additional losses of \$1.2 to \$1.5 billion, which would put reserves at one of their most critical levels in recent years in terms of our obligations over the coming 6 months. Other experts argued, however, that the Central Bank had exhausted its funds for further interventions to support the "little table" and that the peso would probably begin floating as of Monday.

The situation looks unquestionably serious, and all responsible government sectors see it that way, in spite of their different approaches. According to our informants, Mr Aguado, for example, stated just 36 hours ago that he was not aware that an immediate direct or indirect devaluation was in the works, a plan that other major figures close to the current and future governments did not, however, rule out. Some of the Central Bank's Board of Directors met again yesterday to discuss the matter, but circles close to the bank told us the following that evening: "The problem has been referred for political decision-making and will therefore be resolved on the political level." Meanwhile, the feeling was that the sworn declarations ordered by the Central Bank for the purchase of foreign exchange had only succeeded in making the so-called "snail's pace" (or over-the-counter) operations even slower but had in no way appreciably stemmed the outflow of hundreds of millions of dollars, prompted by mistrust and the speculative fever.

After General Viola's return, the idea once again took shape that in addressing the country he could help to dampen the people's uneasiness, to

such an extent that it would be feasible to postpone the implementation of the economic and financial "corrections" until 1 April and thus maintain the dividing line for responsibilities between the two government teams. Another prospect brought up last night was an exchange market "holiday," a sort of "truce" lasting until the 29th. In short, the jumble of news reports and the rumor "machines" seemed to be the only things rolling along as of last night.

Stronger Position

Oddly enough, the financial storm apparently coincides with the start of a period of relative political calm, perhaps induced by what circles close to the government call Viola's "success" in the United States. The fact is that the issue of the military regime's "renewed standing" in the world shares the headlines here today with our domestic tribulations, which are thus balanced out and even mitigated.

The world's attention is also focusing more strongly on the country. The second stage of negotiations on the Beagle dispute begins this Tuesday in the Vatican. As far as we know, General Viola promised during his talks with Haig and Reagan that his government would do everything it could to bring about a quick settlement with Chile within the context of the papal mediation (except, of course, for the so-called principle of oceanic separation) and also stressed that an armed conflict between the two countries "is almost impossible now." For their part, the former nuncio in Argentina, Monsignor Laghi, and his replacement, Monsignor Calabresi, are allegedly convinced, we are assured, that from April on the negotiations will be "quicker and more fruitful than many people suspect." Although we have been unable to confirm this as yet, the Chilean foreign relations undersecretary, Mr Videla, who has just gone to Rome, allegedly told Monsignor Samore that Santiago would be willing to formally renounce future ocean claims east of the Beagle, starting at the "waters of peace," as Argentina is demanding.

Isabel and the Pope

The release of Peron's widow, which for the moment is feasible only by means of a pardon, and her departure abroad have also caught the attention of other countries, especially, of course, Spain and Panama. Some time ago, when she was expecting a different sentence, she arranged an audience with the pope (date not specified), an effort in which a major Argentine Church authority allegedly took part. Furthermore, neither the former president nor her new confidant, Mr Arriola, have reportedly made a decision about her future "permanent" residence, and things could get complicated now. The only thing we know is that "Isabel" is willing to "run" the Peronist movement, either herself or through a "delegate," who could turn out to be Mr Arriola. Yet to be determined is the degree of influence that this attorney, General Torrijos, Mr Lopez Rega and some other local Church figures who seem very interested in "collaborating" with Mrs Peron, will have on her. But will she be pardoned? One case is still pending.

Certain details of the Reagan-Viola talks (and very interesting ones, to be sure), as well as the strategic behind-the-scenes maneuvering that is beginning in the "new" relations between the Church and the Argentine Government, warrant separate treatment. There will be time to analyze them.

PERONIST SECTOR IS BROUGHT INTO FOCUS AS POLITICAL FORCE

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 8 Mar 81 pp 8-9

[Article in the column "Political Panorama"]

[Text] Peronism is a taboo subject in public remarks by the military. They would rather not talk about it so that they are not suspected of being sympathetic towards the faction or so that people do not think that they want to accept the legacy, and above all the followers, that the caudillo left behind.

Thus, the alternative is to refrain from mentioning it or to focus on the facets of Argentina's number one political force that can be criticized right now.

In late 1978, President Videla went somewhat farther in taking the matter up in public, but in substance he did nothing more than revive the longstanding bid to divide Peronism.

There are good and bad Peronists, he said. The former will be absorbed into the Process, and the latter will not even be remembered, he predicted more or less.

To many people, the old idea that by ignoring Peronism it would cease to exist was rising again from the ashes.

Many people also thought that the problem was being dealt with superficially and that therefore the government was sidestepping the central issue, which can be reduced to a simple equation: a new and modern Argentina will not need to distinguish between good and bad Peronists.

A New Approach?

Because of all this, General Viola's increasing references to Peronism seemed not only realistic but also marked by a certain degree of political courage.

"Peronism," Viola noted, "is an Argentine movement with a great deal of grass roots support to which Marxist factions made a specific proposal in 1973 in a bid to penetrate its ranks. It was Peron himself," the general recalled, "who rejected them in his historic speech of 1 May 1974, shortly before his death."

I do not doubt," he said, "that during the process of reestablishing democracy Peronism will be able (and this depends solely on the will and conduct of its men) to organize and take active part in national political life."

There will, of course, be those who will suspect that the future president is seeking to bring some Peronist voters into the political movement of the military process.

But this is as difficult to prove as it easy to prove that he is dealing realistically with this complex and nettlesome issue: Peronism's relationship with the most extreme groups on the ideological spectrum.

Is this perhaps why he termed that speech of Peron's "historic," the speech in which he made a clear-cut distinction between the two?

Someone close to the general pointed out on Friday that his description is accurate because no one can argue the point that the speech is part of history.

But we should not get too enthusiastic either: the spring election is much farther off than we might think.

In the same interview (with newsmen Antonio Rodríguez Villar, the editor of SELECCIONES), General Viola made it clear that we should not give thought to imminent elections or even to an opening up.

"There will now be a stage of participation," he stressed, "in other words, a transition from a constitutional military government to a total state of law."

The Old Myth

Guns or butter? The old myth that when the military are in power they focus on building weapons and leave no money for health care or education, was thus reflected in a general with political skills.

"When a country is at peace, when the possibility of a war is not imminent, or to put the same thing differently, when there is no problem threatening national security or defense, butter becomes relatively more important than guns, which does not mean that the importance of necessary military functions should be overlooked," Viola stated.

This was his explanation of defense expenditures in recent years: first came the battle against subversion and then the possibility of a war with Chile.

We can thus infer that guns have had priority over butter in recent times.

And why were human rights violated?

"In a war," he replied, "it is incorrect to say that rights are violated. That is peacetime terminology. What nation at war, throughout mankind's history, can say that it totally and absolutely respected human rights?"

These were the major domestic problems that Viola broached in what can be considered his second public statement since his appointment, which is also his last before the official address he will deliver on 29 March when he takes office.

Beagle

Two foreign policy issues were highlighted: the conflict with Chile and Argentina's role on the continent.

In brief summary, he said that the dispute with Santiago can always be resolved as long as any negotiations are predicated on one basic premise: mutual respect for the principle of the oceanic division.

Latin American integration is the other issue.

"There can be no regional integration treaty," he remarked, "unless domestic political and economic integration exists beforehand in each one of our countries. If national individuality is preserved on an equal footing, South American integration is viable and, over time, will become a reality. Thus, I would rather be more realistic initially and use the word 'complementarity.'"

So then, at this point in the future president's policy remarks, both major issues (the problem of Peronism and political and economic integration) have a common point of convergence.

Let's see why.

The country that Viola will find is surely not the one that he wanted when he thought about the presidency as a probable but distant objective.

The Crisis

The crisis has struck deeply, and the knife is reaching the bone, driven by our foreign debt, financial breakdown, the bankruptcy of domestic industry and the shortage of reserves.

The protests have gotten to the point that the imminence of 29 March prompted the businessmen in CONAE to sponsor a mass "to mark the end of the economic team's mandate."

The crisis in the financial sector recently led the economy and treasury minister-designate, Lorenzo Sigaut, to request two consecutive meetings with Martinez de Hoz, first, and then with the president of the Central Bank so that they could explain to him everything that was going on.

For its part, the leaders of the radical movement announced that in the days to come they would release a document (said to be very harsh) about the economic situation.

In turn, the friends who served with Martinez de Hoz (both those who are still with him and those who have left) have organized a farewell banquet for him, which will be held at a villa outside Buenos Aires.

A number of absences will surely cause surprise, while the list of invitees will be somewhat obvious.

Is something like this a good thing for the nation's economic and political integration? Surely not.

How would he like history to remember and judge him? he was asked in the interview we have commented on.

"As a citizen and as a soldier who made a constructive contribution to consolidating the groundwork for a future of permanent democratic stability in Argentina," he replied in a convincing tone.

The question that went unasked is how he can accomplish this without ignoring Peronism and with the mandate of developing a political movement to inherit the Process.

The conclusion is obvious: Peronism no longer has a charismatic leader, but the political movement presently lacks a valid consensus, which only the military process can furnish it.

That is why respect for Peronism and a civilian-military convergence are not incompatible, because the government plans to heighten its influence in wide-ranging sectors that have been adversely affected by economic and social policy.

Otherwise, chapters of Argentine history will simply repeat themselves: Peronism will be outlawed, and a weak civilian government will be set up; or Peronism will not be outlawed, and then power will pass into the hands of the adversary.

Since history serves some purpose, this time the government might go beyond cosmetic measures and strike at the heart of Argentina's crisis, transcending the political sleight of hand that emerges from the ascetic and sterile atmosphere of the laboratory.

In spite of everything and even though general conditions are the same as always, there are circumstances that differentiate this juncture from others; some will help the next administration and other will not.

It will not be helped by the depth of our unprecedented economic tragedy, but it will be aided by the institutional stability of this Process.

There has been one ongoing cycle in Argentine political history that will not be repeated this time around.

Five years ago, in March 1976, the military were conspiring to overthrow Peronism.

Five years before that, in 1971, Lanusse was conspiring to overthrow Levingston, and 5 years prior to that, in 1966, Ongania and Piatarini were conspiring to topple Illia.

There will be no institutional interruption this time, and the government will pass normally and peacefully from one set of hands to another.

Down the road, looming like a formidable hurdle that must be cleared, lies the mission that Viola has thinly hinted at: building a movement to inherit the government from the military without ignoring Peronism.

8743

CSO: 3010

MILITARY ACTIVITY TO BE INCREASED IN SOUTH

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 8 Mar 81 p 14

[Text] The commander of the Fifth Army Corps, Maj Gen Jose Rogelio Villareal, said that this year the army would stage final exercises "of greater scope than last year's if the army's budget so permits." The general made these remarks in Bahia Blanca upon returning from a 15-day inspection tour of various garrisons in Patagonia, during which the commander in chief of the army, Lt Gen Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri, was present on two occasions.

The commander of the Fifth Corps also reiterated his support for the system of obligatory military service for 18-year olds. "Experience has shown that the measure we took was correct," he explained.

Villareal's statements about intensified military activity in border areas coincide with previous remarks by the army commander in chief, Lt Gen Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri.

The latter referred to the issue last Friday during the ceremony at which the final decision was made to build the facilities needed for the transfer of the Coronel Manuel Conde Seventh Motorized Infantry Regiment to the "La Armonia" estate in Arana, in the La Plata district of Buenos Aires.

On that occasion, Galtieri asserted that the army "will over this decade increase the number of its units in the border zone and in our unpopulated Patagonia, where it wishes to underscore Argentina's presence and promote development."

The commander in chief added that "just as the army last year began creating new units pursuant to a military political decision regarding defense and development, I hope that to complement this we can, over the next decade and with the good will of government leaders, pursue a program that in addition to developing cities in the interior, will enable the units that make up our branch to function better, so that we can more effectively perform our specific mission."

The commander said in conclusion that "for several decades we have lived social, political, economic and military moments that have been not at all reassuring for the nation's progress. Spanning this situation, the army lived harsh times that impaired its efficiency and even its development," noting that the situation has been rapidly reversing itself since 1980.

WESTERN WORLD REACTION TO NAMIBIA QUESTION URGED

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 26 Mar 81 p 8

[Editorial: "Standstill in Namibia"]

[Text] Nothing is more grave and serious than an unrealistic approach to world problems. A clear illustration of the truth of this concept is the so-called Namibia question in southwest Africa, where the mistaken view of the major democratic states has led to an impasse that has only encouraged organized terrorism, supported and instructed by the interests of the Soviet Union. The harm to the population of the country itself (if that is what it can be called) is reflected in the postponement of and obstacles to their participation in the government, no longer because of the color of their skin but simply because they do not belong to one of the parties (the largest one, granted) in which the fledgling nation is organized.

The current situation has come about because of the short-sightedness of the United States, Great Britain, the FRG, France and Canada in failing to perceive the real motives behind the bid to make SWAPO [South West African People's Organization] the exclusive source of political solutions and to tolerate its ongoing military activities from bases in Angola. South Africa, which initially took a hard line, gradually began giving ground in a reasonable way until its own security was in jeopardy. The threat to the West thus became so patent that when the facts hit home to the Foreign Ministries of the "Five," they could not but abstain in the latest UN vote. The failure of the conciliatory policy was made evident shortly before this in Geneva in light of intransigent approach taken by the terrorist group commanded by Sam Nujoma and backed in every international forum by the Soviet Union and its "claque" of docile subordinates and undiscerning fellow travelers.

The persistent harping on the pretext of racism has only served to discredit the noble objective of eliminating racial discrimination. It is no longer Pretoria that is calling for tight control over the territory that belonged to Germany until it lost it after World War I; rather, it is SWAPO and its putative founding fathers that are against political pluralism, a key element in the Western philosophy of national government.

The single party solution advocated by SWAPO, which consists almost entirely of people from the Ovambo nation, is incompatible with the construction of an open society. In addition to the Ovambos, Namibia has 110,000 whites among its population of some 900,000, including mestizos and ethnic groups other than the Ovambos, authentic nations with different languages, traditions and interests. Those who oppose the terrorists and who, by the way, won the 1978 general election, which had a heavy turnout despite SWAPO's abstention, formed the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA). The election was monitored by representatives of the Five, and no one could convincingly challenge its legitimacy. When SWAPO discovered that it was not favored by the longstanding principle of "one man, one vote," the bone of contention in connection with South Africa, it changed tactics and went back to terrorist violence, which the Pretoria government successfully checked by military means. It then reintensified its campaign to have political, economic and diplomatic sanctions applied against the South Africans.

In short, the time has come for not only the West but the countries of Africa as well, most of which are dominated by national socialist dictatorships tinged with Marxism-Leninism, to open their eyes and realistically come up with solutions and options that do not entail the loss of a strategic bulwark for the West. The issue is not Namibia against South Africa, but the absolutism of SWAPO terrorism against the democratic pluralism of the Turnhalle Alliance, a coalition that does not fear a legal and peaceful face-off with SWAPO if the latter agrees to abandon violence and subversion as weapons.

In the overall realm of international politics, a Namibia marching towards economic prosperity along paths of genuine ties with public opinion will represent a factor for peace in southern Africa, where Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania could join with South Africa and the States it has set up, like so many other nations, and form a true confederation that would serve as an example to the rest of the continent, which some still insist on calling "black." They are thus giving the impression that they would like to exclude people descended from the whites who settled there even before the blacks. We would have to admit that this is a sort of reverse racism, which is all the more serious because we have seen that the current authorities are making an effort to gradually abolish the reprehensible legislation of apartheid.

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CSO: 3010

COLUMNIST ON RECENT APPOINTMENTS, PERONIST MANEUVERS

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Mar 81 pp 1, 8

[Article by J. Iglesias Rouco: "Appointments and Balances"]

[Text] The appointments of nonmilitary officials to the national cabinet and to provincial governorships indicate that with some exceptions General Viola has managed to realize his initial idea of apportioning so-called civilian political "involvement" in government among MID [Integration and Development Movement], Federalist and Progressive Democratic factions, plus a Christian Democrat here and there. Thus, the groundwork seems to be taking shape for what one day could become one of the parties of the "process," with a view towards an institutional "way out."

According to our sources, the civilian "cast" has just been rounded out in the important province of Santa Fe with an almost perfect balance between Progressive Democrats and MID people of the Popular Line, whose differences with Messrs Frigerio and Frondizi are merely superficial. After appointing Alberto Natale as intendant of Rosario, which I reported on yesterday, General Viola and Admiral Luchetta have just named Mr Roberto Cacis, who belongs to Mr Acuna Anzorena's group, intendant of Santa Fe.

Some years ago Mr Cacis was the private secretary of surgeon Carlos Sylvestre Bagnis when he served as the province's governor, and during part of this term he exerted profound influence on provincial politics, his critics contend. He is currently the president, as well as the manager, of the Orgal Cooperative and is generally considered not only a sharp and "fence-mending" politician but also an enterprising businessman.

His excellent working relationship with Mr Gallaretto, who in Santa Fe represents Acuna Anzorena's interests and, in general, the interests of the Popular Line faction closest to the "process," has apparently not prevented him from maintaining good relations with Mr Borella, who has ties with Mr Domingorena, Gallaretto's rival in Popular Line and less supportive of the military regime. He also has, we are assured, direct and smooth channels of communication with Mr Frigerio.

The Bishop's Efforts

According to our informants, the Church was interested in certain areas of the Santa Fe "apportionment," especially the Education Department, which was assigned to Mr Eduardo Sutter Schneider. A former member of, or at least a supporter of Christian Democracy, Sutter Schneider has been out of the part, for many years now, ever since the splits in it gave rise to populist groups with Catholic leanings.

His appointment was allegedly decided on after a recent meeting between Monsignor Bolatti, the archbishop of Rosario, and Admiral Luchetta, thus ruling out another member of Popular Line, Mr Leo Hilliar Pouxedu, who until then was regarded as a strong candidate for the education post. Mr Sutter has until now been the dean of the Political Sciences Department.

Moreover, aside from the Church's interest, Admiral Luchetta likely took into account the potential imbalance that could have developed between Popular Line and the Progressive Democrats if Hilliar had been appointed, and this was probably the decisive factor in choosing Sutter.

Another significant provincial ministry, Economy, has been assigned to Mr Jose Maria Candiotti, who has made a name for himself with his quick rise to the top in the Bank of the Province, of which he is now president. Coming from a traditional Santa Fe family, he is not known to have any political affiliation.

As we have reported, Mr Girardi, the agronomist who is close to the Progressive Democrats, will remain in Agriculture, and Mr Renard (the grandson of the admiral of the same name), who preceded Girardi in Agriculture, will stay on in Public Works. Colonel Rolon, the former commander of the Santa Fe Garrison, will take over the Social Welfare Ministry.

Peronism

Meanwhile, we still know little or nothing about the attack that partially destroyed the Cogtal Printshop. Peronist circles, however, link the incident to the recent sale of the Justicialist newspaper EPOCA, which until lately belonged to Mr Eduardo Colon, a former Peronist deputy, to a group with alleged ties to Lorenzo Miguel. The Peronist circles point out that the next issue of EPOCA was being readied (or there were plans to do so) in that very printshop.

Other circles downplay this explanation. Everyone, however, suggests that the attack was the work of a small ultra-rightist group. Be that as it may, the assault has heightened fears in many sectors that "destabilizing" incidents will begin cropping up.

The statements by Mr Villalon in Panama, which were published yesterday in Buenos Aires, have also caused some stir, not only on account of the status of Mrs Peron, who will probably have to remain somewhat longer in San Vicente,

but also because this is one of the few times that a former associate of Peron's has spoken about the "negotiations" between Puerta de Hierro and the administration of General Lanusse. According to Mr Villalon, no fewer than "22 documents" had been drawn up in connection with these negotiations. This was unquestionably one of the most turbulent periods in recent Argentine history, and it would be interesting to clarify exactly what happened during it.

For the moment, all indications are that Mr Villalon is trying to promote a rapprochement between Mrs Peron and the Peronist left, as I anticipated. But the outlook in this regard is becoming more confused every day, in particular after the ruling handed down by the courts. According to our sources, a group of Peronist women headed by Susana Rosich is now organizing a movement to "rescue" Mrs Peron from the "negative influence" of Mr Arriola and the "poor defense" (they say) that her attorney provided her.

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PRELATE FEARS TRANSFER OF CHURCH MATTERS TO INTERIOR MINISTRY

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] The archbishop of Buenos Aires and cardinal primate of Argentina, Monsignor Juan Carlos Aramburu, has asserted that "it would be advisable" for the Office of Religions [Direccion de Cultos] to continue as part of the Foreign Ministry, thus coming out against its potential transfer to the Interior Ministry, where the Church could encounter "difficulties."

"This ministry (Foreign Relations) acts with great calm and is detached from any political movements that might exist in the government," he added.

Aramburu made these remarks shortly before flying to Rome, a trip that he termed "routine," saying that "I have to take part in a number of meetings of the Congregation for Education, of which I am a member."

With regard to the planned transfer of the Office of Religions from the Foreign Ministry to the Interior Ministry, he pointed out that "the Church has always been within the sphere of the Foreign Relations Ministry."

He explained that "this ministry has links with the Vatican, which maintains a representative to the Argentine Government, and also keeps up relations with the Church."

He went on to say that "this ministry acts with great calm, shall we say, and is detached from any political movements that might exist in the government, depending on which party is in power, and therefore, as has traditionally been the case, the Church maintains very fine relations with the State as part of and through this ministry."

He added that "it would be different in another ministry, especially in a ministry that is eminently political like the Interior Ministry. In that case, the Church might not always be able to enjoy the serene, calm atmosphere of Foreign Relations and could at times encounter some difficulties."

In this regard he indicated that "the Interior Ministry is eminently political. It is the ministry that sets the entire political direction of each administration in every possible sphere of its jurisdiction."

He stated that "therefore, at first glance it would seem that it would be advisable to keep the Church within the sphere in which relations between it and the State have developed so far."

When asked whether he brought the issue up with President Videla during their meeting a few days ago, he said that he had not. He said, however, that he had "talked about the matter."

He clarified that "I am not the one who has to bring this up. That would be the president of the Episcopal Conference or some other organization. So it's not up to me to bring the issue up."

In conclusion, he was asked whether he was going to talk with Pope John Paul II and, if so, was he going to refer to Argentina's response, which the Vatican is awaiting, regarding the pope's proposal for resolving the southern border dispute. His reply was: "I plan to talk with the Holy Father, if possible."

With regard to the issues to be broached on that occasion, "I couldn't say which ones they would be," he emphasized, "because the fact is that it depends on the timing and circumstances in which we talk." (NA)

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UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE MEETS TO DISCUSS ORGANIZATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Mar 81 p 8

[Text] The Doctor Carlos Sanchez Viamonte Institute of Constitutional and Political Law, which is part of the Department of Legal and Social Sciences of La Plata University, and the La Plata Bar Association have organized the International Seminar on Constitutional and Political Law, which will be held on 24 and 25 April in the lecture hall at the university; the topic will be "A Constitutional System and the Legal Organization of Political Parties."

The meetings will be attended by Argentine and foreign specialists and will deal with the following subtopics: Political parties vis-a-vis the regulatory power of the State and the constitution. The scope of regulatory power: maximalism and minimalism (moderator: Dr Humberto Quiroga Lavie); State control over the existence and operation of political parties: qualitative and quantitative control and procedures. The various options, advantages and disadvantages (moderator: Dr Alberto R. Real, from the University of Montevideo); A democracy among parties or towards a democracy of parties? Internal democracy and renewal: organs and procedures for improvement (moderator: Dr Carlos S. Fayt).

Electoral fairness and the Judiciary. Organizational independence and operational effectiveness. The electoral process and electoral procedure. Immediate needs for its overhaul (moderator: Dr Hector R. Orlandi); Institutionalizing the roles of opposition parties. Standards and customs in comparative law (moderator: Carlos A. Floria); and political party financing. Funds and monitoring (moderator: Dr Alberto A. Natale).

Papers and studies can be submitted up to 10 April.

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BUDGET DRAFT APPROVED, NO MAJOR CHANGES

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Mar 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] The executive branch has approved Law No 22451 setting forth the fiscal budget for the current year. In general, there were no basic changes and the deficit was set at 10,835,592,000,000 pesos, resulting from expenditures of 69,113,997,000,000 pesos and income totaling 56,142,045,000,000 pesos.

The amount of "figurative expenditures" was set at 13,448,560,000,000, while the balance from preceding periods was estimated at 2,136,360,000,000 pesos.

The law, which consists of 42 articles, the last a formal one, establishes a figure of 13,472,795,000,000 to cover the amortization of debts and advances to suppliers and contractors of the national administration, and 15,644,015,000,000 for the financing of the national administration. Finally, in the accounting portion of the budget, the figure of 8,664,372,000,000 is shown as the balance (negative) for this year's national administration budget period.

Elimination of Contributions

The 1981 budget has one characteristic distinguishing it from the preceding ones, to wit, the effect of the elimination of the employers' contribution of 15 percent and the contribution of 5 percent on remuneration to the National Housing Fund. Also, 21 taxes have been eliminated and replaced by extension of the taxable base for the added value tax and an increase in the rate for a broad sector of goods and services. The tax reform, which tends toward fiscal neutrality, calls for a decrease in income of about two percent of the gross domestic product in its initial stage for 1981. As efficiency in tax collection continues to increase, this difference will disappear. But with the adoption of the political decision not to increase the existing tax rates for the time being, in particular the added value tax, nor to create new taxes, there is this loss of resources initially which forces drastic measures to achieve coverage of the consolidated budget for the public sector with a financing need of less than three percent of the gross domestic product. In addition, it makes it necessary to grant special priority to everything leading to an increase in the taxation and collection capacity of the General Directorate of Taxation.

The difficulties resulting from the tax reform referred to will require some adjustment as it develops, since it is not possible to foresee at any given moment all the effects of such a major step. If indeed there is a solution to all this, the problems the reform has posed in connection with the drafting of the budget for 1981 have been particularly delicate.

Beyond the cold budget figures, the reduction in total public expenditure presumes a continuation of the three courses of action previously determined, to wit: rationalization of current expenditures, establishing priorities and overall limitation of investments in the public sector, and transfer both of enterprises and parts of public enterprises, many auxiliary services and public projects to the private sector, on the basis of the concession system.

Reforms in the Budget Law

The budget law contains 13 norms and authorizations resulting from temporary situations, such as the authorization to provide financial aid to the radio broadcasting and television stations under government administration or intervention, in order to cover the expenditures resulting from the services being transferred to the provinces, to the municipality of Buenos Aires and to the national territory of Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica and the South Atlantic islands. In addition, a series of articles has been included which pertain to explicit or implicit subsidy rates for which various laws provide. The subsidy for which article 30 provides has to do with that established by the wage law.

In addition, the law includes some articles pertaining to subjects related to the budget and public expenditures in general.

Wages

The decision adopted for this budget was to maintain the same average real wage as in 1980. As it was expected that the rate of inflation would continue to decline in 1981, at least in some quarters, the initial real wage level had to be higher than that established for 1980, i.e., the resulting increase will be less than the price increase for the preceding period. The decision adopted for the first quarter of 1981 was not to recover the price increases corresponding to the last quarter of 1980. As a result this means that the initial real wage for 1981 is lower than the initial real wage for the last quarter of 1980.

Naturally, the real wage variations resulting from changes in the rate of inflation have a similar effect in budget terms as the results of decisions on nominal wages. When the rate of inflation is high, it is possible to establish a high initial wage level, because the nominal rate of increase in fiscal income in the course of the period will also be high. If inflation will be lower, the nominal increase in fiscal resources will also be lower, since one cannot as a result cover the same initial nominal wage level without an increase in the financing need.

It was estimated that personnel expenditures for the public sector as a whole would reach 12.4 gross domestic product points in 1981. This figure is lower than the 14.0 points corresponding to the 1980 budget, due to the elimination of social burdens provided for the end of the year, but it entails the same real remuneration. It should be noted that these levels were only exceeded in 1974 (14.7 percent of the gross domestic product) and 1975 (16.2 percent of the gross domestic product), when there were higher personnel levels than at present.

Need for Financing

Where financing needs are concerned, the traditional sequence included in the two preceding budget law messages have been reestimated, taking into account the change in methodology introduced in 1980, and also using budget implementation figures rather than the budget for the years prior to 1980. It is to be noted that in the years 1977, 1978 and 1979, the financing need was finally lower than the budget estimate. Instead of 4.7 percent of the gross domestic product in 1977, the financing need came to 3 percent; in 1978, it was 3.5 percent instead of 4.1 percent; and in 1979, it was 3.5 percent instead of 3.9 percent. On the one hand there are sums which are not in fact expended in the course of the fiscal period, while on the other, the increase in the indebtedness of public enterprises is often lower than the estimate. The fact that these enterprises have to pay market interest instead of credit which is heavily subsidized in real terms, as was the case prior to 1977, results in financial administration which is better adjusted, seeks to minimize inventories and uses more restrictive criteria in granting credit to third parties, making unnecessary investments unnecessary and liquidating idle assets. This healthy effect of unsubsidized credit has the final result of avoiding exhausting the indebtedness margin authorized for the enterprises.

Use of Expenditures (in percentage)

	1979*	1980*	1981**
General Administration	11.2	12.0	11.4
Defense	11.8	10.3	10.6
Security	8.3	9.0	9.3
Health	6.7	7.4	7.7
Culture and Education	15.8	16.7	16.3
Development of the Economy	32.6	32.8	31.2
Social Welfare	14.0	13.9	15.1
Science and Technology	1.7	1.8	1.7
Public Debt	-1.1	0.2	0.1
Unclassified	0.7	0.3	0.3
Savings To Be Effected	<u>-3.9</u>	<u>-4.4</u>	<u>-3.7</u>
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Final budget.

**1981 draft budget.

Financing Needs
(in terms of the gross domestic product)

Year	Overall Financing Need	Total Public Investment	<u>Financing Need</u> <u>Investment</u>
	1	2	1/2
1970	1.0	7.3	14
1971	3.6	7.1	51
1972	4.3	7.6	57
1973	6.4	6.7	95
1974	6.7	7.3	92
1975	14.4	8.2	176
1976	9.4	10.8	87
1977	3.0	11.4	26
1978	3.5	11.2	31
1979	3.5	8.9	39
1980	4.0	9.2	43
1981	2.9	8.4	35

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CSO: 3010

EDITORIAL FOCUSES ON MAGNITUDE OF FOREIGN DEBT

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 1 Apr 81 p 8

[Editorial: "The Overwhelming Foreign Debt"]

[Text] Each Argentine citizen, whether adult or young, man or woman, working or retired, owes a foreign debt of \$1,000. This can be concluded from the Central Bank's preliminary report for 1980, which shows that at the end of that year the foreign debt totaled \$27,162,000,000. The foreign debt per person was \$700 in 1979 and \$500 in 1978.

It is obvious that the Central Bank has gold and foreign exchange reserves, such that when these have been deducted, the foreign debt per person, \$260 in 1978 and \$330 in 1979, came to more than double that in 1980, showing an increase of exactly 123.4 percent to \$740 per capita. At an 18 percent annual rate, this debt calls for interest payments during 1981 of \$133.

Now then, it is estimated that the exports per inhabitant in the course of this year will be \$370, from which it can be concluded that more than a third of the total for these exports will have to be allocated for the payment of interest, leaving a remainder of \$237 to pay for imports. This required payment of \$390 last year, which helps us to appreciate the magnitude of the adjustments we Argentine citizens must make in this year and those which follow in order to balance foreign accounts.

The most outstanding feature is how this notorious imbalance deteriorated during the year just past, without a doubt in the first quarter of this year, while the government has not taken the corrective measures many have demanded. Quite the contrary, with its gaze fixed exclusively on the price level and preventing its rise through imports and the maintenance of low prices for export products, it has failed to take into account that the real problem lay in the fact that we Argentine citizens were spending too much and that this excessive expenditure was going into imports, investments and tourism abroad. This excess expenditure had its origin in the budget imbalance, which reached 4 percent of the gross domestic product, or approximately \$6 billion, and the issuance of 11 trillion pesos (another \$6 billion), which was necessary to refund the deposits in the financial bodies liquidated and to aid other bodies with problems.

The total of these imports comes almost exactly to the equivalent of the foreign imbalance of \$11 billion reported in 1980. In a word, the fiscal deficit and the financial crisis shared by halves the responsibility for the issuance of money the artificial purchasing power of which was focused abroad.

Recovery of these \$11 billion means a heavy burden for the country, which must now effect the relevant savings. Suffice it to say that the foreign debt service is equivalent to the expected export of grains in the year in progress. The way to do this involves returning income to the productive sectors via the price system, which will primarily favor exports, removing them from the overgrown public sector and other naturally protected sectors of foreign trade which could make full use of the excessive expenditure referred to. It is the steps which will achieve these results which the new government should take now.

S157

C80: 3010

MAJOR ISSUES PACING NEW ECONOMIC TEAM REVIEWED

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 29 Mar 81 Sec 3 pp 1, 7

[Text] The country is awaiting with singular concern and expectation the launching of the new administration in the economic sector, which will be implemented beginning today by five ministries: treasury and finance, public works and services, agriculture and livestock breeding, commerce and maritime interests, and industry and mining.

The new president, Lt Gen Roberto Viola, has noted his support of the key principles of the economic program adopted by the armed forces (a more open economy, encouragement of private initiative, subsidiary role of the state, etc.), and on the other hand, the change in authorities which will occur today does not include a change in the highest government body, the military junta.

But within the framework of these same guidelines, measures are expected to respond to a difficult situation. It is understood that the desire of the new authority is to make adjustments designed to "revive" the productive apparatus, as well as to reward the efforts made by various sectors in certain respects. Lt Gen Viola has, moreover, allowed his concern about the difficulties high interest rates mean for productive activities to be glimpsed. Also the problem of reducing public expenditures as a factor of major importance in reducing inflation will continue to require new impetus.

In a first stage, and as a special circumstance, the coordination of the efforts of various ministries on the reconciliation of the various viewpoints can be expected, so that decisions which constitute a consistent economic policy can be adopted.

This coordination will certainly proceed as the work of the team develops, and the proposal of solutions to the various specific problems which occur becomes necessary.

For the time being, it is worthwhile to review the main problems which the future ministers will have to face as they take charge of their respective sectors, as well as some of the possible alternative actions available to them.

Treasury and Finance

The minister of treasury and finance, Dr Lorenzo Sigaut, will have to provide a definition of the exchange problem, taking into account the existing uncertainty,

the decline in reserves, and the difficulties of the productive sectors. The official attitude on the subject, about which there are various reports predicting everything from a general devaluation to a multiple rate of exchange for trade and financial operations, is awaited with interest.

Whatever the measures to be adopted, it is clear that an effort will be made to ensure the increase in exports in order to improve the situation of the foreign sector, in view of the magnitude of the debt and the imbalance which has recently developed.

Another subject linked with the preceding involves seeking a reduction in the interest rate, such as to encourage productive activities. An effort will also be made to settle the past due bills of the financial bodies, while measures will have to be studied with a view to the rescue of enterprises which, having shown a potential for efficiency, have nonetheless suffered difficulties because of the particular development of the financial situation.

Dr Sigaut will have to take on a special role in connection with the anti-inflationary policy, which will be focused on decreasing public expenditure, without persisting in the search for foreign exchange tools. He will also have competence when it comes to the customs structure, which without returning to the old protectionism, can perhaps moderate the rate of influx in order to alleviate temporary problems in the industrial sectors.

It will also fall to Dr Sigaut to improve the collection of state resources and propose mechanisms designed to prevent tax evasion. He will also have to undertake the implementation of the budget which will go into effect as he begins his term of office.

Public Works and Services

It is understood that Maj Gen (ret) Diego Urricariet will not modify the investment plans for this year for the public works planned by the Secretariat of Transportation and Public Works (SETOP). This decision was influenced by the fact that both in the highway and the railroad sectors the goals undertaken have been rather cautious, with the exception of the recently approved Roca Railroad project, calling for an investment of 400 million U.S. dollars in the next 4 years.

In highway and railroad projects, as in sanitary projects and the construction of grain silos and elevators, the trend has been toward a reduction in expenditures or undertaking projects on a toll fee basis (as with the West Access road or the highway between Buenos Aires and La Plata). The new minister will have to decide whether the policy of taking over and restructuring the dimensions of means of transportation is to be continued.

He will also have to decide whether or not to implement the guidelines of the National Transportation Plan completed in January of this year. Its trend is to reduce automotive transportation by means of rates, tax policy and subsidies, direct or indirect, to the benefit of the railroads, with the adaptation of the peripheral operations of various means of transport, but without any spectacular measures. The rates are the main tool in this policy and its use is in the hands of the minister.

In the energy sector, pursuit of the Electrical Equipment Plan defined and verified by engineer Bernardo Bronstein, and the programs for oil exploration on risk contracts, stand out.

Also to be completed are the negotiations with Uruguay and Brasil for the export of natural gas and with Bolivia for its import. Better use of our fossil resources will also have to be sought such as to replace those in shortest supply (oil) with those which are more abundant (gas).

Finally, it is necessary to pursue the centralization of energy supply services, already begun under the preceding government. Where electrical energy is concerned, a definition as to whether the transfer will be made to the provinces or to the regional enterprises being established will be necessary.

Commerce and Maritime Interests

Dr Garcia Martinez is regarded as very close to the economic philosophy which has prevailed in the handling of subjects in the sector of which he will take charge. He for his part has defined himself as a partisan of the least possible state interference in the price-fixing mechanism. He takes over a ministry following intervention in only one market--medications.

Certainly the views of this minister will weigh very heavily if a review of the customs structure (a matter in which his ministry as well as the finance ministry will have competence) is undertaken.

His administration will seek to improve the marketing structure in the country. But as there are no major immediate problems in domestic trade, the attention of the new minister will be focused on foreign trade, and in particular on the structuring of a strategy designed to increase exports.

Within this context, the negotiations with the East European countries and with China take on importance, as does the development of new markets, in view of the gradual protectionism pursued in the industrialized countries. Thus the bilateral negotiations with a view to the establishment of free trade zones, first of all with Uruguay (almost completed) and subsequently with Mexico and Peru within the framework of the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) will receive the minister's priority attention.

It will also be his task to study the situation with regard to anti-dumping legislation, which, as has been seen, has become within a plan for a more open economy one of the basic means of protecting domestic production from unfair foreign competition.

Finally, as a representative of the nation, co-owner of the central market, along with the municipality of Buenos Aires and of the province, he will have to devise a plan for the operation of this burdensome project.

Another task of this ministry will be to insure the reorganization and reactivation of the fishing sector. Consistent with the recent provisions for the prefinancing of exports, it will be allowed to unload catches in any Argentine port, except Mar del Plata, and under certain conditions, for large factory and freezer vessels to operate north of the 40th parallel.

There will have to be a definition on the subject of the Punta Medanos deepwater port, on which the feasibility study has been completed (the proposal is with the military junta). The sizable liabilities of the fishing sector and shipbuilding will also be a focus of attention.

Industry and Mining

Engineer Eduardo Oxenford will have responsibility for the task of finding means of improving the level of activity in the industrial sector. He will have to reconcile this goal with the open economy policy being pursued.

The subject of promoting industrial development, which comes within his specific jurisdiction, will merit special attention in engineer Oxenford's administration. To achieve this, it will be necessary to have the tools making such action possible. The limitation imposed today by the so-called "fiscal" rate limiting the granting of promotional incentives stands out in this connection.

With regard to this matter, the new minister will have to establish priorities such as to contribute to the establishment of the so-called "industrial profile."

He will also have to devote concern, within his jurisdiction, to the situation of the regional economies, with special attention to the industrial development of Patagonia.

The administration of such sectorial systems as automotive vehicles, tractors and highway machinery, and such various projects as the Bahia Blanca petrochemical center, the ALPAT Solvay soda plant, etc, will also fall to engineer Oxenford.

In the mining sector, the new minister will have to promote the exploitation of three major deposits: Bajo de Alumbrera, Farallon Negro and Pachon. In the last-mentioned case, the pursuit of the necessary technical studies will have to be encouraged.

Also he will have to continue the effort to promote small mining and contribute to the consolidation of mining awareness in the country.

Agriculture and Livestock Breeding

Mr Aguado will have to deal with the heavy indebtedness situation in the farm sector, which union bodies estimate at more than \$5 billion, while official estimates put it at \$3.6 billion, seeking solutions along with other government sectors.

His attention will be required to reestablish profitability for producers, who where grain is concerned are asking for the establishment of a minimal price or support, because they are seeing negative profits due to the exchange rate.

The record harvest of 36 million tons with an exportable surplus amply exceeding 20 million is another of the subjects with which the minister must deal. Obtaining markets presents no difficulty, but it will indeed be necessary to make a great shipping effort, since between now and November it will be necessary to export an average of 2.5 million tons per month.

This will necessitate a coordinated policy of transportation to the ports and maritime departures by the vessels, on which the outgoing administration has already made progress.

Another problem is created by the low price of meat, its effect being seen in the process of liquidation in order to engage in more profitable activities.

Work must also be done toward an agreement on the price of milk between producers and industrial processors. The industrial sector says it cannot pay more because of the subsidized import from other countries. One alternative for clarifying the market might be proposing an increase in the surcharges on the imports of dairy products to the extent which would compensate for the effect of the subsidies.

One idea which the new minister plans to carry forward is reduction of the state apparatus in the sector and the centralization of various bodies--the INTA [National Institute of Agricultural and Livestock Technology] will be an exception--at the ministry.

5157

CSO: 3010

CONINAGRO ISSUES PROPOSALS TO AID FARM SECTOR

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Mar 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] CONINAGRO [Agricultural and Livestock Intercooperative Confederation] has made public a statement in which it proposes changes in loan, exchange and tax policies in an attempt to turn around "the serious problems besetting the country's economic machinery."

The document was approved at the close of a meeting that started at 1030 hours at Serrano 2425 and that was attended by more than 900 producers and the presidents of the 10 associated groups.

The head of CONINAGRO, Mr Orlando Gilardoni, delivered a speech in which he asserted that inflation "artificially contained at levels that we cannot be proud of continues to eat away at the country's economic and social fabric, with consequences that I can openly term unforeseeable."

At one point in his address, the speaker asked who causes inflation and replied: "To us the answer is clear: the State, which has a monopoly on the power to print money."

He made the point later on that "it should be quite clear that we are far from being in a position to seriously contend that inflation has been defeated," remarking that "cumulative inflation between January 1978 and last 30 November exceeded 931 percent. During the same period," he added, "farm prices rose only 624 percent. The difference is a minus 307 points."

Further on, he argued that until 1978 "the countryside was able to export, and there was a genuine inflow of foreign exchange." He then pointed out that "since the startup of the exchange rate guidelines, which have been marked by an increasing time lag, the import sectors, foreign capital and a veritable explosion of overseas tourism have been the areas we have subsidized."

The Statement

In outlining the current situation, the CONINAGRO statement indicates that as a result of economic policy the farm and industrial sectors have stagnated and are slumping, while only the less dynamic sectors such as finances and insurance have shown growth.

"Over the last 5 years we have seen a most unfair example of deprivation and abusive treatment, the dismantling and destruction of the ranchers' only means of protection: the CAP [Argentine Corporation of Meat Producers]. This development will weigh heavily on the record of those responsible for it."

After recalling an April 1976 speech of the economy minister's in which he asserted that "the investment process requires that production yield sufficient profits," CONINAGRO contends that this has not come about and that the slump in farm prices has taken place, paradoxically, as world prices in general have increased for almost every category of agricultural output.

The document lists the results of this situation as, among other things, the heightening of social tensions, a recession with inflation, a huge budget deficit, negative profit margins, widespread bankruptcies, a downturn in production and exports, and a foreign trade crisis.

"All of this is taking place at a time when our foreign debt has tripled since late 1976."

The Proposals

In the last part of the document, the confederation makes public its thinking about solutions. It has sent these proposals to the current authorities and to the ones who will take over on 29 March, "so that urgent measures can be taken to deal with the dangerous situation in which agriculture in general and other domestic sectors find themselves."

The statement approved by the assembly contends that loan policy must in the short run take care of "the high level of indebtedness of our farms (over \$5 million) and provide long-term financing to fund this debt at a cost the farms can afford."

In the judgment of CONINAGRO, the exchange rate must reflect economic realities and not be used as a means of fighting inflation, because that distorts the entire economic process.

"We do not feel that an abrupt devaluation is the most advisable move, because inflation would break out again immediately. On the contrary, we must begin a steady and continuing process of exchange rate approximations that will lead to a realistic balance between the peso and foreign currencies, while seeing to it that the guidelines are realistic and without trying to force realities to adapt to the guidelines."

As far as tax policy is concerned, CONINAGRO reaffirms its position that the farm revenue base must be a tax on unimproved and replaceable land, because in that case the tax system would be a real instrument for economic and social development by encouraging, not hindering greater output.

"In the short term, we feel it is very important to lighten the tax burden on the farm sector in general, to which end the program of steady decreases in taxes on gross income that has been announced for 1981 is a step in the right direction, although it is not enough.

"Our farms are anxiously awaiting what the new authorities have to say and what they are going to do about the problems, concerns and proposals set forth in our group's documents."

8743

C80: 3010

ZORREGUIETA: FARM POLICIES WILL REMAIN UNALTERED

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Salta (NA)--The secretary of agriculture and livestock, Jorge Zorreguieta, has asserted that "as my successor, Mr Jorge Aguado, has promised me, the policy pursued by the secretariat during my term of office will not change" as of the 29th of this month, when the new authorities take over.

Zorreguieta spoke at Estacion General Alvarado, a town near this capital, where the tobacco preprocessing plant that belongs to the Cooperative of Salta Tobacco Growers was inaugurated.

The ceremony was presided over by the acting governor of the province, Rene Davis, and attended by local officials and growers from Salta and Jujuy.

In his speech Zorreguieta announced a contribution of 5 billion pesos for the Growers Cooperative to finance labor costs during this year's harvest.

The cooperative plans to harvest some 6 million kilograms of the Virginia variety, to be exported to Europe starting late this month.

Correction

Zorreguieta also announced a 33.75 percent correction on the price of the tobacco that each grower has marketed.

He added, on a different subject, that a sale of 150,000 tons of soybeans to Bolivia has been concluded, indicating that they would come from the production of provinces in the northwest.

In conclusion, the secretary said that "I have conversed at length with Mr Jorge Aguado," who will be in charge of the new Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock as of 29 March, "about the situation in Argentine agriculture, and he has assured me that the policy pursued by the secretariat will not change under him and that the tobacco growers should not be afraid that the Special Fund will hold back support for regional production."

After attending a luncheon at the plant inaugurated yesterday at Estacion Alvarado, the agriculture and livestock secretary returned to the federal capital.

The plant is considered one of the most modern in Latin America and will process some 300 tons of tobacco a day.

DELIVERY OF RECORD GRAIN CROP TO OVERTAX GROWERS

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Mar 81 p 6

[Editorial: "The Coarse Grain Harvest"]

[Text] At this point in their growth, which has been helped by favorable weather conditions, the coarse grain crops, already unseasonably developed, are bearing out the forecasts of an exceptionally large harvest this farm year. Growers hope to supplement the 9.3 million ton fine grain harvest (7.8 million tons of which was wheat, as we reported at the time) with 24.5 million tons of corn, sorghum, soybeans and sunflowers; other grain crops will not exceed 250,000 tons each, except for rice. Total acreage was 20.1 million hectares (6.1 million of wheat and 1.7 million of oats, out of a total of 10.7 million hectares earmarked for the fine grain crop), which is about 5 percent above the average crop area over the last 5 years.

Thus, the country's grain output will have grown this season by 35 to 40 percent over the 23 million tons that grain and oilseed production averaged 5 years ago. By comparing this figure and crop acreage, we can see the sharp rise in productivity, in other words, yield per hectare, which in general and according to an official announcement, has jumped from 1,150 kilograms to more than 1,500, which does not include the yields over the next few weeks, corn in particular. On previous occasions we have commented on the credit due our agriculture for this overall technological progress.

Now that domestic farm production is in good shape, as wheat exports have been steady and our negotiators are now concluding their efforts to secure markets for our corn, sorghum and soybeans, we feel compelled to note that the growers' financial status should now be attended to. The complaints that all farmer groups have voiced in connection with the widespread indebtedness that is now putting the squeeze on their activities, have been corroborated by the national authorities, who are worried about the effects on the movement and shipment of crops if the farmers, forced to meet their commitments to the banks, hastily put their grain harvests on the market on a massive scale.

Although various precautions have been taken, such as extending certificates of deposit to growers, scheduling shifts for overseas trade vessels, and the use of floating cranes to round out required cargo loads, the authorities in charge are concerned about "how to move this (record) coarse grain harvest

out." Foreign markets are also clearly in a hurry to take receipt of the merchandise they have ordered, as we can see from the arrangements that the National Grain Board has made in Russia to implement the shipping system that will have to take care of that country's huge purchases by mid-year. These conditions would be aggravated if, as in the past, our elevators, warehouses and ports became congested with merchandise; this would obstruct the movement of grains, which in large quantities would overtax the capacity of our terminals.

The aforementioned circumstances should be viewed in the light of the current difficulties on the money market. They do not stem from our abundant and opportune production or from an inadequate organization of transportation and storage, although the latter has not kept pace with the larger harvests. They stem from farmer indebtedness, which will hamstring the phased-in marketing of the bulk of their output.

The money market has been thrown into disarray by a number of serious problems, which have made it impossible to finance the various spheres of production; in this regard, there is an increasingly pressing need to develop some way of coming to grips with the upcoming coarse grain harvest, because the country cannot afford to frustrate a legitimate hope of relief for growers that would also buoy the economy's imperiled foreign sector.

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CSO: 3010

RECORD GRAIN HARVEST REPORTED, WEATHER STILL PROBLEM

Good Harvests Despite Weather

Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 5 Mar 81 p 8

[Text] Cordoba--The provincial secretary of agricultural and livestock has announced that Cordoba will post record corn, sorghum and soybean crops this season in spite of the adverse impact of flooding, drought, hail and excessive rainfall.

Lt Col Luis Cisneros also disclosed at a press conference that the areas around Al Vortin, Cruz del Eje, San Javier, San Alberto, La Pedania and Juarez Celman in San Justo Department have been declared disaster zones because of the flooding.

Even though the situation in certain regions is serious on account of the floods, "overall, we should bear in mind," he said, "that of the 3.8 million hectares of arable land in the province, only 150,000 have been affected, which comes to about 3 percent."

With regard to the coarse grain harvest, he revealed that some 2.8 million tons of corn will reportedly be harvested this season, which is somewhat more than double last year's crop over almost the same acreage.

We are also looking at a record sorghum crop, 2.8 million tons, far above the 1 million tons in 1979-80 and with a smaller acreage. In addition, Cisneros disclosed, the soybean yield has been surprising. This crop is spreading almost all over the province, and this year's harvest is about double last year's, increasing from 500,000 to 1 million tons.

He stressed in conclusion that Argentina is producing a really significant harvest this year, 33.8 million tons, at a time when the USSR and the United States will record sharp declines. He also voiced his desire that the province's Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock be raised to ministerial rank, as on the federal level, in view of the enormous potential of the sector that it represents.

Separately, in Santiago del Estero, the undersecretary of agriculture and livestock, Antonio Gomez Abram, reported that a record sorghum harvest is expected this farm year, because 108,000 hectares were planted and weather conditions have been favorable.

Coarse Grain Harvest Up

Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 8 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] The rainfall over the last few days has helped the coarse grain crops in wideranging areas of Buenos Aires Province, although the situation caused by the flooding in El Litoral and Norte has not completely normalized, and there is still a lack of rainfall in La Pampa Province.

This province's heavy rainfall needs for its coarse grain crops have not been fully met.

The outlook has been improving in recent days as a result of rainfall throughout the central, northern, eastern and southern sections of the province, and if this trend continues, growers will harvest a successful crop that will make up for the declines in the fine grain harvest.

The production of fodder is proceeding normally, and livestock are in good condition throughout the Pampas.

Meanwhile, CARBAP [Confederation of Buenos Aires and the Pampa Rural Associations] yesterday organized a meeting of one of its eight member groups in Bahia Blanca; it was attended by representatives from Darragueira, Pigue, Torquins, Bahia Blanca, Villalonga, Carmen de Patagones, Coronel Suarez, Pringles and Dorrego, with 34 growers in attendance.

After the secretary general of CARBAP, Alberto Paronetto, outlined the overall agricultural situation, each person in the audience put forth his recommendations, which were mainly concerned with the financial status of growers. The Carmen de Patagones representative asked that the government be requested to include his district of Buenos Aires in the Patagonia Economic Recovery Program.

It was reported at the same time that similar meetings were held in Pehuajo, Junin, Azul, Mercedes, Lezama, Balcarce and Castex.

Separately, the situation in Chaco, Formosa and Misiones is still critical on account of the floods there, which are advancing in some areas and receding in others but in every case leaving a toll of ruined crops and livestock losses.

In Formosa, further damages have resulted from the overflowing of the Bermejo and Pilcomayo rivers, and the situation has been complicated by the cutoff of numerous local roads.

The same thing is happening in Chaco, and only 1,900 tons of cotton have been harvested so far, compared to 66,000 last year by this date.

8743

CSO: 3010

PCCH LEADERS CALL FOR ARMED STRUGGLE ON RADIO MOSCOW

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 Mar 81 p C-5

[Text] In consecutive broadcasts from Radio Moscow, leaders of Chile's proscribed Communist Party, particularly Volodia Teitelboim Volosky, have spoken of "the right of rebellion" to overthrow Pinochet's government.

The problem was discussed several days ago in Mexico City. Mexican deputy Segbe Halen, executive secretary of the permanent conference of Latin American political parties, and Anselmo Sule, vice president of the Socialist International and president of the former Chilean Radical Party, spoke out against the constitution approved in Chile in 1980, saying it "violates human rights, and is antidemocratic." As a "logical" result of this assessment, both pro-Marxist personalities acknowledged the people's right to rebellion.

Sule stressed that "the domestic and probably the foreign courses are closed, all that is left for us is the course of rebellion; we will use all forms of action; we will not leave our positions at the forefront of the masses nor on the international fronts, and," he added, "we will prepare ourselves for insurgency; we will not leave tyrants, or those who openly or secretly support them, with their hands free. Our motto," he stressed, "is that of 1810: to win or die."

"Manuel Rodriguez" Command

Volodia Teitelboim, underscored the words of the previous speakers, and revealed the existence of the "Manuel Rodriguez" Patriotic Command and the text of a communique from that Marxist group in which it explains and reports on its creation and the actions it has taken recently, such as the November 1980 blackout and other acts during the Vina del Mar Festival. Moreover, Teitelboim recited that command's motto: "With reason and force, we will win."

Luis Corvalan's Position

Pedro Correa, communist commentator on Radio Moscow, analyzing Chilean communism's position on armed struggle, referred to an article by writer Pino Cimo for the newspaper IL MESSAGGERO of Italy on 22 November 1980. It said that the former Chilean Communist Party had received Corvalan's approval to begin armed struggle with Pinochet's government.

Correa recalled that Corvalan had indicated that the Chilean Communist Party is not exactly reckless and adventurous, but that on principle it has never rejected armed

struggle. "Because of this," Correa maintained, "we stated, in a speech 16 November in Stockholm and before that, on 3 September in Moscow, that it is simply that Pinochet's fascist dictatorship has created a new situation, in the face of which, in the course of things, the people will have to resort even to the sacred right of rebellion."

8587

CSO: 3010/1084

NEW AIR ROUTE TO MARSCH BASE IN ANTARCTIC BEGUN

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 22 Mar 81 p C-7

[Article by Francisco Eterovic]

[Text] Punta Arenas--A Queen-Air Excalibur 8800 A conventional engine plane, belonging to the Tama Airlines of Magallanes, landed safely at Marsch Base in the Antarctic at 1430 yesterday, after taking off from President Ibanez International Airport in Punta Arenas at 0937.

The plane was piloted by former Chilean Air Force officer Jorge Freygan. His co-pilot was Joaquin Barbera, a Spanish professional who has taken courses in Canada and is now living in Magallanes.

Half an hour later, the pilot Freygan, calling from Antarctica, spoke by radio to EL MERCURIO, stating that "the flight was normal on this important day, on which the Chilean Air Force celebrates one more year of useful existence."

He said that they had made a "precautionary" landing in Puerto Williams after an hour's flying time, for refueling. They continued the flight at 1115, arriving at 1430 "with no problems and under optimum conditions." He stressed the "warm welcome they received from all the Air Force personnel at Marsch Base.

Regarding the future for commercial aviation, he said that "it is a new route, which it is hoped will be used more by commercial airplanes, so that the white continent may be better known by the people of our nation."

He stressed that the landing at Puerto Williams was "was for safety reasons, since he had a range of 8 hours, and it was a 3-hour flight between Puerto Williams and Marsch base.

"We did it because it was a new route for us and we did not know what problems might arise, and in case of a possible shutdown here in Antarctica because of bad conditions, we might have had to return to President Ibanez Airport in Punta Arenas. So I decided to stop at Puerto Williams, to have an hour's extra fuel in case we should have to return because of bad weather conditions," the pilot emphasized.

Two ham radio operators followed the events: Emilio Amarales in this city, and Guillermo Beros in Porvenir, Tierra del Fuego. This fact was noted by the pilot as "the moral support of two good friends."

Celebration

Cesar Tejos, commander of March Base, also reported by radio to EL MERCURIO about details of the celebration of the Air Force's anniversary. The celebration began with a formation and a speech on their duty, and then the Chilean flag was raised in a spot called "Flag Rock." "We also did so here," the commander said.

Both flags are in the vicinity of the base.

Afterward they went about their regular duties, followed by a social luncheon. Then at 1700 they began the return trip to Punta Arenas, where they were expected to land about 2200.

In Punta Arenas

Parades on the ground and in the air in celebration of the Chilean Air Force [FACH] anniversary, were held yesterday before a large crowd in the Punta Arenas municipal stadium.

Gen Sergio Covarrubias, intendent of Magallanes, and Gen Nelson Sepulveda Brito, commander in chief of the Fourth Air Brigade, presided over the parade. They spoke on the history of the FACH with special mention of the institution's work in Antarctica.

The also presented medals and awards for years of service.

8587

CSO: 3010/1084

CUBAN-TRAINED GUERRILLA COMMENTS ON M-19 OPERATION

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Mar 81 Sec A pp 1, 6

[Interview with Colombian M-19 member Hermes Rodriguez Benitez at the Tolemaida Military Base in Colombia]

[Text] Tolemaida Military Base (Tolima), 21 March--The Cuban participation in the training of the commandos of the 19 April subversive movement (M-19) was fully confirmed when a guerrilla fighter wounded in the recent battles in the southern part of the country revealed that nearly 80 men had been trained for 3 months by the military on Fidel Castro's island.

Hermes Rodriguez Benitez, an 18-year old youth born in Cali, and a member of M-19 for 6 months, was one of the terrorists wounded in the recent clashes on the Colombian-Ecuadorean border by the splintering of a grenade. He said that they were crowded for 90 days in a military barracks in the Cuban mountains, adding that the route used by the subversive group to enter Colombia was Havana-Panama City-Narino.

The young guerrilla's serious charges concerning Cuban intervention have not evoked an official statement from the Colombian Government to date.

EL TIEMPO attempted to communicate on several occasions with the Cuban ambassador, Fernando Robelo, in order to learn the position of Fidel Castro's government, but it was unable to do so.

Furthermore, the military forces are keeping the guerrillas from the column which operated in Tado, Choco, surrounded by land, sea and air; and it was reported that Helmer Marin Marin, one of the chiefs of the clandestine movement, was killed in one of the battles between subversives and regular troops.

The guerrilla fighter was interviewed by over 40 newsmen in the Tolemaida facilities, at a press conference called by the Armed Forces.

It was claimed by well informed sources that this individual is not a member of any M-19 leadership entity, but is merely a "common soldier."

According to the account given by Hermes, who was previously engaged in stamping cards in a Cali typesetter's shop, during a party held in the capital of Valle he met a "liaison" from the subversive group, who "encouraged" him to join the movement, and that is how he agreed to do so.

A few days later, the "liaison" met him in a location in downtown Cali, where he introduced him to an "attractive young woman," with whom he traveled to Medellin.

They were received in the Antioquia capital by the commander of another M-19 cell, who gave the young woman the sum of 6,000 pesos to travel with Hermes to Puerto Baldivia, on the Panamanian border, where they remained for 4 days, "camouflaged" at the headquarters of a labor union of a Panamanian brickworks. They later took a plane which flew them directly to Cuba.

When asked whether he had met Fidel Castro in person, Hermes replied: "No, they only showed him to us in films."

According to the statements of the M-19 member, in Cuba they met with more Colombians: "There were nearly 100 of us."

He added that Rosenberg Pabon, known as the "number one commander," who led the seizure of the Dominican embassy last year, was also there.

In Cuba, they were told that they would be given a "course" of guerrilla instruction, which would last about 6 months.

According to Hermes, they called the instructor for the course Major Radames, or Ramses, "I don't quite remember, but it was something like that." The guerrilla training "course" was suddenly stopped, and they were told that "the exercises would be intensified, because the closing would take place at the end of 3 months."

When he was asked what type of weapons he learned to handle, he answered: "All kinds, including some of German make; but the one I remember most is the G-3 rifle."

When the "course" ended, they were given uniforms and other insignia. That same night, they flew on different airlines to Panama, and from there they boarded a "black ship."

The 100 subversives affiliated with M-19 arrived on that ship near Ecuador, where they were transferred to boats. According to the guerrilla fighter Hermes, also shipped with them was the weaponry that customs discovered on the Tumaco route a few days ago.

The boats headed for the Mira River and, a few kilometers beyond the coast, they landed. "The first thing we did was to put on the uniforms again, and they gave us weapons."

About 2 days after having landed, they were spotted by the Colombian Army troops. Rodriguez claimed: "I think that the farmers informed on us."

As soon as the chiefs observed this, they ordered a retreat, but Hermes was unlucky, and was wounded in the forehead by Army gunfire. Wounded and battered, he managed to walk for several days, after which he lagged behind the group and fell into the hands of his pursuers.

He has been receiving medical treatment for 3 days at the hospital of the Tolemaida military fort, in the jurisdiction of the Cundinamarca municipality of Nilo. The physicians who treated Hermes found his wound completely infected. His feet were swollen and bitten by insects. His condition is not serious, but he is obviously fatigued and weary. He speaks very slowly.

He said that he was not afraid of having told his whole story. "I don't want to continue with this, I want to work honestly," stated the M-19 member, the first of those captured in the southern part of the country to talk with the press.

Hermes also said that the physician Toledo Plata and Jose Rosemberg Pabon had fled toward Ecuador, where they were apprehended by the authorities of the neighboring country.

He also remarked that he does not know Jaime Bateman, and when asked about a possible division in M-19, he replied: "I don't think that there is one, and now with what it has just experienced, even less so."

Interview

The interview between the newsmen and the wounded guerrilla fighter, Hermes Rodriguez, took place as follows:

[Question] What is your name?

[Answer] Hermes Rodriguez Benitez.

[Question] Where were you captured?

[Answer] In Ecuador.

[Question] From what country did you all arrive?

[Answer] From Cuba.

[Question] Were you trained there?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] For how long?

[Answer] Three months.

[Question] Did you participate in the hijacking of a plane to Cuba?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Where were you trained as a guerrilla?

[Answer] In Cuba.

[Question] Where did they recruit you for the movement?

[Answer] In Cali.

[Question] What did they tell you?

[Answer] They asked whether I wanted to attend a school to receive military training.

[Question] How long did you stay in Cuba?

[Answer] Three months.

[Question] Were you with Toledo Plata and Rosenberg Pabon Pabon?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] Where did they arrest you?

[Answer] In Ecuador, and on Saturday, they turned me over, by helicopter, with six comrades, to the battalion that is below Tumaco.

[Question] How did you join M-19?

[Answer] It was 6 months ago, through Comrade Camilo.

[Question] What rank do you hold in the organization?

[Answer] I have none; I don't hold a rank yet.

[Question] What was your task in the organization?

[Answer] To enter the country with other comrades over the border, but I don't really know what the plan was.

[Question] When did you arrive in Cuba?

[Answer] About 13 November.

[Question] Who gave you training in Cuba?

[Answer] Some instructors.

[Question] How did you reach Cuba?

[Answer] By plane.

[Question] Why are you making these confessions, when it is assumed that guerrillas have to remain silent?

[Answer] We didn't learn that yet, because we were in Cuba.

[Question] Why are you making statements about these operations?

[Answer] I refuse to answer that.

[Question] Then are you an informer on M-19?

[Answer] No.

[Question] What do you know about Toledo Plata and Rosenberg Pabon?

[Answer] They are under arrest in Tumaco.

[Question] Who else is under arrest?

[Answer] Other comrades.

[Question] Who was killed?

[Answer] About eight comrades were killed.

[Question] Are they important from the standpoint of rank?

[Answer] There was one lieutenant, and the rest were members.

[Question] What do you know about Ivan Marino Ospina?

[Answer] I don't know anything.

[Question] What do you know about Carmenza Cardona Londono?

[Answer] She was not there before, but she came.

[Question] In other words, she is free?

[Answer] Yes, I think so.

[Question] Was Elmer Marin killed?

[Answer] No, he is not dead.

[Question] What about Ivan Marino Ospina?

[Answer] No.

[Question] But where are they?

[Answer] I am not sure.

[Question] But are they under arrest or free?

[Answer] They are free.

[Question] Did you have an opportunity to meet with or see Fidel Castro?

[Answer] No.

[Question] What prominent Cuban did you see?

[Answer] Fidel Castro, on television.

[Question] But did you talk with any of them?

[Answer] No, only with the instructors.

[Question] In which M-19 operations did you participate?

[Answer] Only the one operation, and in that march that we were making.

[Question] Why did it fail?

[Answer] We were not going to let the Army see us, and it caught us by surprise.

[Question] Were the confiscated weapons from Panama or Cuba?

[Answer] I don't know.

[Question] But was the weaponry that you had given to you by the Cuban or the Panamanian Government?

[Answer] They didn't tell us who gave those weapons.

[Question] How did you join M-19?

[Answer] I joined through a friend, and before that I worked in a card factory.

[Question] What schooling do you have?

[Answer] Four years of high school.

[Question] Did Toledo Plata direct the entire Tumaco operation?

[Answer] I am not sure, because they did not say.

[Question] Where did you see Toledo?

[Answer] In Ecuador.

[Question] How many left for Cuba?

[Answer] I went to Panama with a girl, and there were about 80 men with me over in Cuba.

[Question] When did you all return to Colombia?

[Answer] I am not quite sure how long we stayed there, because I did not have a calendar.

[Question] In what part of Cuba did you all live during those 3 months?

[Answer] In a barracks, but it was closed up.

[Question] In Havana?

[Answer] No, not in Havana, it was in the mountains.

[Question] What did they tell you that you had to do?

[Answer] Learn to handle some weapons: G-3 rifles.

[Question] What did you all intend to do in Colombia?

[Answer] To enter the interior of the country.

[Question] For what purpose?

[Answer] I don't know; I think it was to become scattered in the cities.

[Question] How many individuals entered with you?

[Answer] About 70.

[Question] Is there division in M-19?

[Answer] I don't believe there is.

[Question] Why not?

[Answer] I think there is none any longer, because there was division; I think that this division has now been replaced by unity.

[Question] Who revealed it?

[Answer] I don't know; they told us about it.

[Question] Did M-19 assassinate Bitterman?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Then who was it?

[Answer] I don't know; we were in Cuba.

[Question] Do you regret having joined the guerrillas?

There is a brief pause, and he replies to another question:

[Answer] Perhaps so; I don't want to continue working.

[Question] Were there guerrillas of other nationalities?

[Answer] No, they were all Colombians.

[Question] It is claimed that the first six who were turned over to the Army were shot in Narino. Is that true?

[Answer] No, they did kill one at the border.

[Question] Who killed him?

[Answer] I don't know; it was with the grenade that wounded me.

[Question] Did Toledo Plata surrender, or was he captured in combat?

[Answer] No, he was in Ecuador, and after the confrontation everyone took cover on one side.

[Question] In other words, he escaped?

[Answer] No, he crossed the border, and we remained in ambush on the river.

[Question] Did they turn him over in Ecuador?

[Answer] I think so.

[Question] Did Toledo Plata participate in the seizure of Mocoa?

[Answer] No, we were just entering.

[Question] How did the Army treat you? Have you been tortured, threatened or prepared to answer these questions?

[Answer] No, they have not tortured me.

[Question] But have they prepared you to answer?

[Answer] No, they have not tortured me either.

[Question] Do you believe that Toledo Plata has informed on the M-19 members?

[Answer] No.

[Question] What could have caused the failure of the operation?

[Answer] I think that they "gave us away;" some farmer saw us entering.

[Question] How did you all arrive?

[Answer] By boat.

[Question] When he arrived in Cuba did you converse with Rosenberg Pabon?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] What did you discuss with him?

[Answer] We discussed general matters.

[Question] Was Toledo Plata in Cuba, or did he go to receive you upon your arrival?

[Answer] We saw him in Ecuador.

[Question] Who was in Cuba with Rosenberg when you arrived?

[Answer] Other people, but their names are only pseudonyms.

[Question] Was Jaime Bateman with you all?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Do you know Bateman?

[Answer] No, I don't know him.

[Question] What do you know about what happened to him?

[Answer] I don't know; I don't think that he is living in the country.

[Question] Do you know Ivan Marino Ospina?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Where might he be living?

[Answer] I am not quite sure, but he is not living in the country.

[Question] How old are you?

[Answer] Eighteen years old.

[Question] Are you afraid of what may happen to your family?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] What are you afraid of?

[Answer] Well, that they will do something to them.

[Question] The Army or the guerrillas?

[Answer] Who knows? It could be the guerrillas or the Army.

[Question] Why have you dared to say this?

[Answer] When they caught us, the Army already knew that we had come from Cuba.

[Question] Why did you join the guerrillas?

[Answer] Who knows? The guerrillas left me some rather great experiences.

[Question] Was the discipline very drastic?

[Answer] Quite drastic.

[Question] Is it true that the guerrillas execute the farmers?

[Answer] No.

[Question] What is life among the guerrillas like?

[Answer] Well it is rather hard; it is voluntary, and we have food, sardines and the mountains.

[Question] Would you have remained in the guerrillas?

[Answer] I don't know. It is quite a big step for the one taking it.

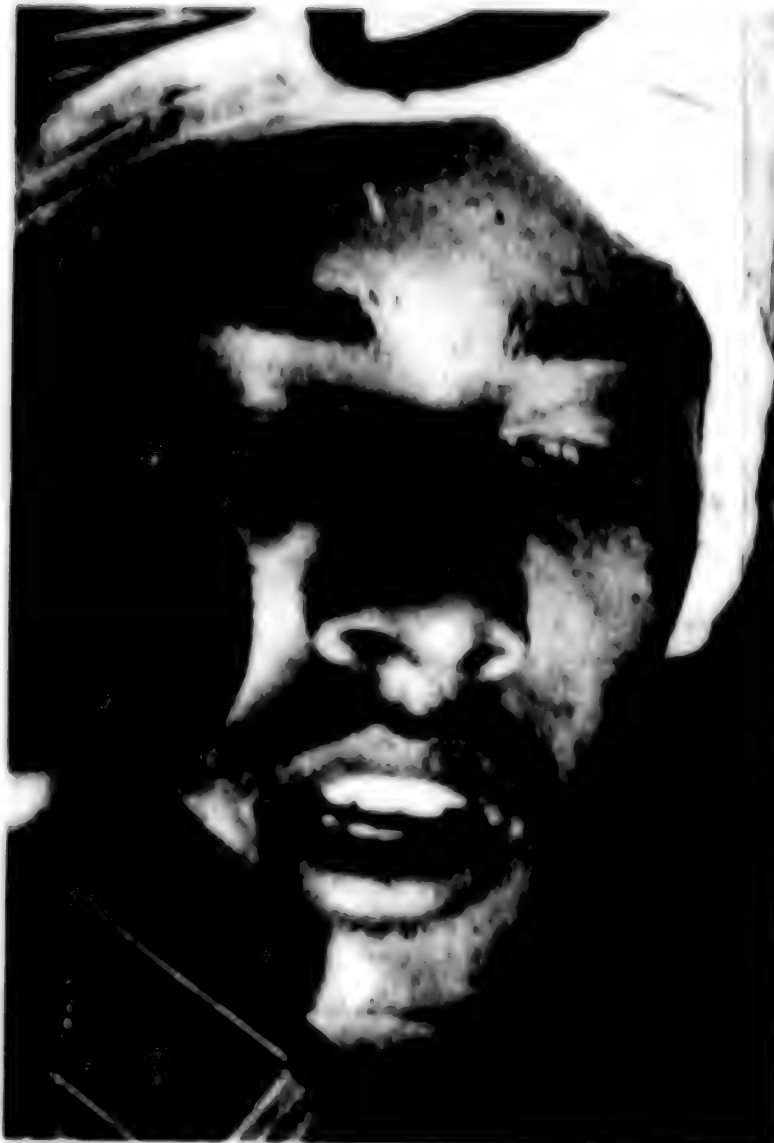
[Question] Did four columns come?

[Answer] No, one column.

[Question] What weapons did you all use?

[Answer] G-3 rifles.

At the end of the interview, he said that Carlos (referring to Toledo Plata) had led them, but he would not tell where. He also disclosed that, while in Cuba, they rose at 0500 hours in the morning, then cleaned their weapons, sang the national anthem, had breakfast and later were given training by Cuban instructors, according to his statements.



Hermes Rodriguez Benitez, an M-19 guerrilla fighter wounded in the battle with the Army in the southern part of the country, and arrested by the Ecuadorean authorities, disclosed yesterday to a large group of newsmen that he had been trained in Cuba, along with 80 more members of the subversive organization.

2909
CSO: 3010

ARMY'S REPORT ON GUERRILLA LANDING DESCRIBED

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 25 Mar 81 Sec A pp 1, 12

[Text] Yesterday, Brig Gen Manuel Jaime Guerrero Paz, commander of the Third Brigade which was responsible for directing the operations against the M-19 forces that landed in the southwestern section of the country, gave an account of the military action which ended in the actual dismantling of the armed group, denied that Carlos Toledo Plata had committed suicide and confirmed the exclusive report provided by this newspaper yesterday to the effect that there was included among the captured individuals Rafael Arteaga Giraldo, the man from whose residence the tunnel was dug which was used to steal thousands of weapons from the North District of Bogota.

The high-ranking officer also reported that the 75 captured persons include 7 of foreign nationality, whose fingerprints are being checked to ascertain whether the names that they gave are genuine.

Account of the Operations

At a press conference held at the Arms and Services Institute of the Military Institutes Brigade, which was attended by the second commander of the Colombian Army, Maj Gen Bernardo Lema Henao, and other high-ranking officers of the Armed Forces, Brig Gen Guerrero Paz used a series of diagrams to explain the operations carried out against M-19, as well as the movements made by the subversive organization in that remote section of the country.

Training in Cuba

The high-ranking officer began by reporting that during the months of June, July and August, approximately, M-19 engaged in a recruiting effort in the cities of Cali, Bogota, Medellin, Barranca, Bucaramanga, Cartagena and others, to form the columns of the subversive organization which were later to enter the country.

He said: "They gave these gullible individuals sums of money ranging between 10,000 and 14,000 pesos, and the fare to travel to Panama City during early November and late October. From these locations they went to the aforementioned city, where they remained for several days. They were subsequently moved, also by air, and taken to the airport in Havana, where they were given training over a 3-month period. Among other types, they received training in the handling of weapons, urban and rural guerrilla warfare tactics, first aid, political ideology and other subjects."

By Ship From Panama

Gen Guerrero Paz said that, when the training of the recruited individuals was completed, they were again put on airplanes and taken to Panama City, so as subsequently to be put aboard a freighter of Colombian registry, called "El Predy," at a location in the fraternal country. On this ship they were taken to a site called Las Mercedes, situated opposite the town of Tumaco. Previously, other contacts of the subversive organization had gone to the aforementioned port in order to look for the ships that would carry them upstream along the Mira River.

First Reports

Gen Guerrero Paz remarked: "This is how they rented 11 boats there on which they shipped the materiel and equipment, and sailed up the Mira River to the area of Candelillas. That was the site of the first landing of weapons and, on 7 March, I received the report, as commander of the operational unit, from informants in the area that an armed group was camped on the banks of the Mira River. I immediately issued an order to the Cabal No 3 Cavalry Group stationed in Ipiales to detail the forces available to it to move to the aforementioned location, and begin combat operations."

He added: "Simultaneously, the entire operational unit was reorganized, and two task forces were formed to operate: one in the Pacific area, under orders from Lt Col German Plata Rodriguez; and another task force to operate in Putumayo, under orders from Lt Col Edgar Motta. This is how the operation began on 7 March, to be declared terminated yesterday."

Zone of Operations

The commander of the Third Brigade explained that the area of operations on the Pacific coast consists, in the east, of virtually the locality of Llorente and the site where the Mira River enters Colombian territory; and, in the west, the town of Tumaco and the site where the Mataje River flows into the Pacific Ocean.

He said: "All the military operations were conducted in this area. It is a damp, jungle area, where rainfall occurs very often, and it is surrounded by many waterways, prominent among which is the Mira River, which has its source in Ecuador, and deposits its water in the Pacific; the Mataje River, which also has its source in Ecuador, forming part of the Colombian-Ecuadorean border, and deposits its water in the Pacific as well; the Guisa River, a tributary of the Mira River; and the San Juan River, also a tributary of the same Mira River. However, there is a large number of waterways in the area, which of course make operations of any kind difficult, regardless of their type. It is an extremely dense jungle; there is virtually no observation from the air; and one can only follow the tracks or traces left behind by individuals entering this dense tropical forest."

Series of Contacts

Gen Guerrero Paz stated that the first contact was made between 8 and 9 March, at a place called La Honda, located near the settlement of San Juan. The initial contact was made on 8 March, at about 1500 hours, and lasted until 2000 hours at night.

It was resumed the next day, when the M-19 members succeeded in leaving, and seven casualties were found to have occurred among the armed group. The pursuit continued later, and a new contact occurred on the site known as El Pital, near a stream that was being used as a displacement point, where two more casualties occurred among the subversives. On 10 March, there was another battle in the vicinity of the site known as Restrepo, in which three of the armed insurgents lost their lives.

According to the military officer's account, the operations continued toward the south, near the Ecuadorian border, where another contact took place on a site called Santo de Mataje, where the river of the same name becomes extremely rapid; and on this occasion the subversives suffered four more casualties, while two soldiers from the Palace Battalion lost their lives in a battle that lasted all day. On 12 March, in an area near the aforementioned site, units of the Third Brigade captured 26 persons, who were placed under the orders of the Counter guerrilla Unit which at that time was in the area and was the very one which carried out the operation, as well as others conducted subsequently, especially the search and mop-up of the area and the recovery of materiel.

Arsenal Seized

General Guerrero supplied the many newsmen attending the press conference with a complete list of the ordnance seized in the operations, which consisted of the following: 89 G-3 rifles; a breech for a rifle of the same type; 11 submachine guns; two Colt 45 pistols; five M-9 rocket launchers; a 40-millimeter grenade launcher rifle; 297 magazines for the G-3 rifle; 192 canvas magazine carriers; 55 cleaning kits for the G-3 rifle; three pistol magazines; 317 hand grenades; 28 grenades for a 60-millimeter mortar; 34 40-millimeter projectiles for grenade launchers; 448 sticks of dynamite; 80 electric exploders; 31 machine gun magazines; 10 magazine carriers; 17,716 bullets for the G-3 rifle; 1,602 rounds of 9-millimeter caliber ammunition; 531 rounds of ammunition for the R-15 rifle; 106 for the 45-caliber pistol; 45 anti-personnel mines; 15 fabric grenade carriers; two M-14 magazines; one magazine for a Colt 45; 268 bullets for the 38-caliber revolver; 396 for the 22-caliber; and six R-15 magazines.

Also confiscated was a large volume of combat boots, canteens, equipment of American manufacture, green pants and shirts, and uniforms, also of American origin; camouflaged blankets and shirts of the same origin, and other pants and tarps of different origins, fabric and twill hammocks, woolen blankets, caps, camouflaged green hats, field equipment carriers, furniture holders, canvas shovel carriers, ponchos, rope, mosquito netting, plastic utensils, a radio receiver, a power source, a frequency memorizer selector, an antenna tuner, earphones, microphones and several cables.

Seven Foreigners

According to the high-ranking officer, the captured foreigners claimed that their names were Wilder Cesar Silva, alias "Omar," of Uruguayan nationality; Teodoro Hunt Hesolp, alias "Ricardo;" Mario Alexis Concepcion, alias "Victoriano;" Pablo Fernandez Brumel; Ricardo Quintero, alias "Nelson;" and Roberto Garrido Visuelte, alias "Nacor," all of Panamanian nationality; and Sayndel Bedoya Rivera, of Costa Rica. The identities of these individuals have not yet been fully ascertained, and their fingerprints were taken in order to find out whether those are their real names.

Final Assessment

In making an assessment of the results of the operation, Gen Guerrero Paz said that there were 16 fatalities among the M-19 members, and two more involving members of the National Army; 75 subversives were captured, three of whom were wounded, including Hermes Rodriguez Benitez, the only one of the prisoners who has been taken out of the operations area thus far, and who made a disclosure at a press conference to the effect that he, together with nearly 80 more comrades, had received military training in Cuba.

The commander of the Third Brigade remarked that, although the unit headed by him has in its possession the list of the names of the 75 captured persons, it is not yet the proper time to publish it, because the names must first be proven; and, for this purpose, on Monday of this week the fingerprints were sent to the National Registry of Status, so that the pertinent check may be made there.

Groundless Rumor

He added that Carlos Toledo Plata is in perfect health, and that the rumors of his alleged suicide are groundless. The subversive leader is located, along with Rosenberg Pabon, Arteaga Giraldo (the tunnel man) and the others who were captured, at the command post established by the Army in the operations area.

As for the woman known as "La Chiqui," Gen Guerrero Paz said that he knew nothing about her, nor about Ivan Marino Ospina, who is not among those captured.

He added that, within the next few hours, he would return again to the operations area to study future moves, particularly in connection with the continued search for the M-19 group which seized the capital of Putumayo.

The general concluded by saying: "We have had a battle from which we emerged victorious, but the threat continues and, as the president remarked yesterday, the country needs the participation of all the living forces, to avert the danger to which our nation is subjected."

Gift From Fidel Castro

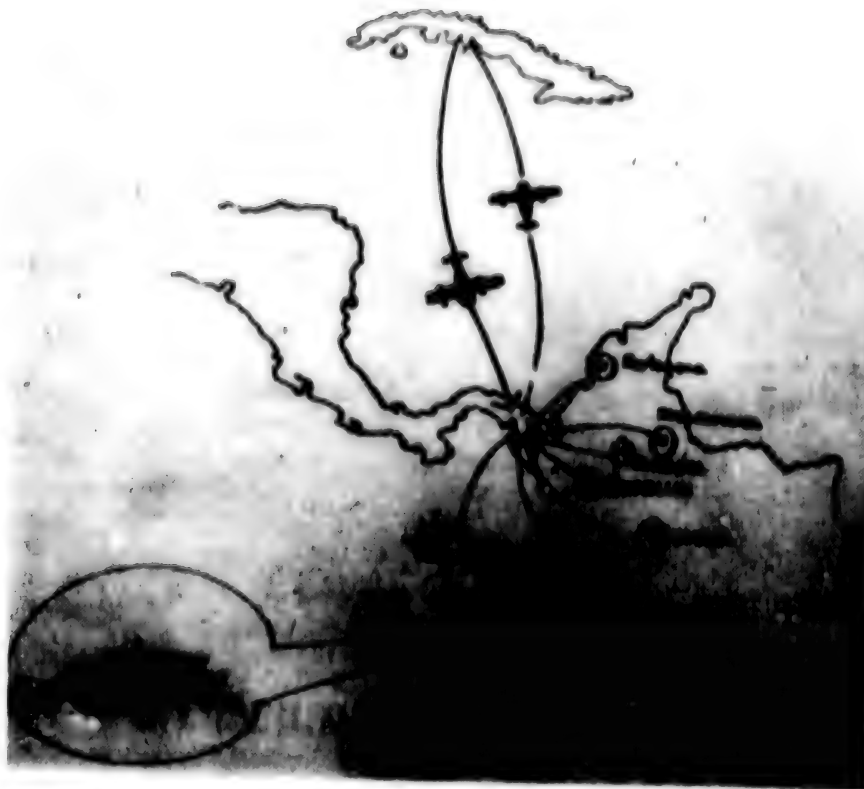
The second commander of the Army, Gen Lema Henao, for his part, displayed to the newsmen a pistol given several years ago as a gift by Prime Minister Fidel Castro to the then guerrilla leader, Fabio Vasquez Castano. Gen Lema Henao stressed that this weapon was among the "souvenirs" which the head of the Cuban Government was in the habit of giving to those who attacked the various regimes of the American nations.

The Army second commander praised the courage and determination with which the Colombian troops acted in the operations against M-19, and especially the respect that they kept for the integrity of the armed individuals who were captured.



Top: Hand grenades, sticks of dynamite, bullets for heavy caliber weapons and countless field equipment are part of the materiel confiscated from M-19 by the Army.

Bottom: Brig Gen Manuel Jaime Guerrero Paz, commander of the Third Brigade, explains at a press conference held in the North District of Bogota the manner in which the operations were carried out, whereby a decisive blow was dealt to the M-19 armed groups in the southern part of the country.



The diagram shows the movements made by M-19 while preparing for the action which was thwarted in the southern part of the country. According to the Army's report, the subversives were recruited in various Colombian cities, went to Panama by air, and then to Cuba, from which they returned after having received military training for a period of 3 months. They later traveled from Panama in a ship of Colombian registry to the department of Narino, and penetrated Colombian territory along the Mira River, making use of 11 boats.

2909

CSO: 3010

CARAZO ACCUSED OF HIDING ROLE IN NICARAGUAN CONFLICT

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 26 Mar 81 p 14A

[Editorial: "The Deep Credibility Crisis"]

[Text] The public confession of five pilots that they participated in the transportation of arms from Havana, Cuba, to Llano Grande, Costa Rica, is the culmination (for now) of a series of accusations, testimony and evidence that have convinced the nation that the administration of Mr Carazo Odio has been hiding from Costa Ricans much of its role in the Nicaraguan conflict and other public affairs, through half truths and cover-ups.

The current administration's behavior has reached the point that from the highest to the lowest levels of officialdom, the same duplicity can be observed. The lack of truthfulness seems to have been imposed by the administration as a political imperative. Even semantics has suffered in all the official media, such that the meaning and significance of words have been altered diametrically.

President Carazo's bombastic speeches, which he gives every day in many places throughout the country, have become a means for bewildering the Costa Rican people so that they will be unable to see the reality his oratory is constantly denying.

President Carazo has repeatedly denied having any knowledge that a direct airlift was established between Cuba and Costa Rica during the 2 months before Somoza was overthrown. Just a short time ago he responded to a question by the editor of LA REPUBLICA at a meeting of friends, and denied the accusation. His ministers, vice ministers, former ministers and the entire intimate coterie of the Presidential Mansion have done the same with respect to that issue and many others. President Carazo released LA PRENSA LIBRE journalist Jose Joaquin Loria in the middle of the Sandinist insurrection to force him to go to Guanacaste to prove his accusation that there were guerrilla camps in some places along the border. President Carazo gave instructions to his foreign affairs minister to curry favor for Costa Rica in the dispute with Somoza, based on the strict neutrality of his government. President Carazo denied at the very beginning that one of his children had visited Cuba and met with Castro during the Nicaraguan conflict. President Carazo stonewalled efforts to clear up the facts in the parliamentary committee that is investigating the arms traffic, by vetoing the legislative decree that would make it illegal to commit perjury before the special committees that investigate public affairs.

New President Carazo has said, at yesterday's press conference, that the weapons he authorized to be sent to the country from Cuba were Panamanian; that is, they were bought by the Panamanian Government. He said they were merely picked up by our pilots in Havana, which does not change matters at all; it renders his version (which he apparently improvised at the last minute, because when he denied those facts before he never added that detail) an absurd half truth.

In other areas vital to national life, concerning his economic policy, his intervention in the exodus of Cubans, his credit and monetary programs, and his exchange measures, Carazo's administration has to a greater or lesser degree described that same sinuous curve of instability, constant contradictions and capricious about-faces, and has thus seriously damaged the nation's confidence and the security of the business sector.

The pilots' confession is direct evidence by those who participated in these events. It is proof--we would say qualified--that there were indeed direct flights from Cuba to Costa Rica, authorized and sanctioned by the government, and that even the Civil Guard was employed in the loading and unloading of these weapons. That document means that the government can no longer feed Costa Ricans the same falsehoods that it has been offering as of this writing, unless it wants to carry its deceit to a very serious political extreme.

As a consequence of all this, the country has fallen into a morass of incredulity, mistrust and frustration. If no legal or constitutional outlet is found, the result could be chaos. When a government loses its credibility to that extent, it can not recover it. A loss of credibility means an absence of justification, of legitimacy, of authenticity in the exercise of power, the real basis of which is none other than the electoral will of the majority of the population.

We have reached the most dangerous point in the crisis, a moral, political and institutional crisis aggravated in this case by official insistence that what has the country so alarmed is nothing but propaganda by the mass media.

The president says that as long as there is no mental destabilization, there can be no destabilization at all (an assertion that unfortunately has preceded the great political and social upheavals of Latin American history). In view of such a version of reality, we can only appeal, as we are appealing here, to all political parties, all sectors, all professional associations and trade unions, and in general to the people as a whole, to force those involved to quickly restore national confidence and security using the means set forth in our constitution and legislation.

9926

CSO: 3010

GRENADA SEEN REJECTING U.S. 'VIEW' OF CARIBBEAN

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 13 Mar 81 p 6

[Editorial by Orestes Valera]

[Text] The people and the government of Grenada have achieved outstanding results in the important task of national reconstruction in this small Caribbean island.

When the New Jewel Movement led by lawyer Maurice Bishop assumed power on 13 March 1979, the country had an economic deficit of \$41 million, a product of the corruption of the tyrannical regime of the fascist sorcerer Eric Gairy; unemployment reached 51 percent of the labor force; more than 45 percent illiteracy; widespread malnutrition; only three students registered in the university; at the same time that the rulers were getting rich by handing the country over to both foreign and national exploiters, principally the United States.

The widespread devastation in which Grenada found itself is being eliminated by the People's Welfare Policy carried out by the Bishop administration. Creation of new jobs, a successful literacy campaign, a struggle against malnutrition, outstanding attention to childhood and youth, health, education (today there are hundreds of university students in various parts of the world), public works, the equality of women and in general the existence of a feeling of freedom and popular participation is observed in that little Caribbean country which today is celebrating the second anniversary of its revolutionary triumph.

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the Revolutionary Government, Maurice Bishop, the prime minister of Grenada, said in Queen's Park before 20,000 men and women of his people: "National unity, pride and the new spirit of patriotism that the people of our country are feeling is the product of their correct understanding that for the first time in the history of our country they have a government which represents their interests."

In his speech, Bishop declared that "the forces of imperialism, like those of colonialism, are not interested in seeing people advance with dignity as they construct societies corresponding to their needs. The imperialists are interested only in dollars and profits.

"There are some people who still believe that the United States, or certain elements within that country, have a right to consider this Caribbean Sea as a private lake, like an extension of the United States, like its front yard. We say 'no!' to that

theory of the 'front yard.' This region, this Caribbean Sea and this Latin American region have the right to develop their own societies, they have the right to decide who are to be their friends," the Grenadan leader emphasized.

In this victorious second anniversary of the Grenadan Revolution, we recall the words of our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, in the closing session of the Third Congress of the Federation of Cuban Women: "Grenada, Nicaragua and Cuba are three giants who are standing up to defend their rights to independence, to sovereignty and to justice, right on the very doorstep of imperialism."

Facing today the terror and the threats of imperialist aggression, the Revolutionary Government of Maurice Bishop has a large positive balance of successes and prospects to offer its brave and hard-working people who, on this anniversary, are defending their destiny with the creation of a just and happy society.

12,116

CSO: 3010/1071

U.S. VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM REJECTED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 16 Mar 81 p 6

[Editorial by Oscar Ferrer]

[Text] During the 4 years of the Carter administration, the United States tried to pose as the defender of human rights, rights which the U.S. government has done so much to violate in the world and within its own borders.

To try to improve the deteriorated image of the United States, especially abroad, to meddle in the internal affairs of the socialist countries and countries of the so-called Third World and unleash a new anti-Soviet and anticommunist offensive have been the objectives of that bumbling campaign on human rights.

However, the United States then went out onto the international stage to throw stones against other people's solid roofs in spite of its own being of glass, since racial discrimination, unemployment and unjust treatment of women are, among others, daily violations of human rights in that country. However, the demagogical utilization of human rights as an instrument and key element of U.S. foreign policy passed into oblivion with the recent change of administration. The new government has decided to alter the priority order in the realm of its foreign policy and determine that starting as of now the center of its foreign policy is not to be found in human rights, but rather in the struggle against what it calls "international terrorism."

In this way, from one day to the next, the United States has stopped being "the defender" of human rights to change itself into "a fighter against international terrorism."

However, not involuntarily, the parents of this idea have twisted the concepts and have given the term terrorism a tendentious and capricious interpretation, helpful to its interests. The United States thus starts once again to throw stones at the roof of its neighbor without observing the fragility of its own.

Historically, the imperialist forces have used really terroristic methods to try to stop the independent aspirations of all peoples, to preserve their raw material supply sources, to maintain their markets and protect their large capital investments, to guard strategic positions and the areas over which Washington wishes to impose its influence, and that the Pentagon and the White House are accustomed to locate indiscriminately at 10 miles or 10,000 miles from its geographical borders.

The United States unleashed from the centers of power terror directed at Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, and Portuguese colonialism did so in Angola and in Mozambique, to mention only a few cases that are close to us in time.

The crimes, the tortures and the "disappearances," in Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Bolivia and Argentina are terroristic. Those are regimes supported by the United States. The methods of the capitalists to maintain their positions and attempt to contain the people's struggle for independence, the right to life, the control of national wealth, national existence and sovereignty are terroristic.

And it is the forces which in a few countries still struggle for similar objectives against the enemies of their peoples which imperialism pretends to call terroristic.

With this manipulated concept, imperialism now tries to confuse public opinion by presenting as forces of "international terrorism" the Salvadoran and Guatemalan patriots, the Palestinians who hope for a territory for their people, and all the true revolutionaries who risk their lives for their countries.

Thus the attempt is made to hide the true terrorists, who are today, among others, the South African racists, the Zionists, Pinochet's agents and torturers, the committers of genocide on the Salvadoran junta, the Chinese aggressors who have sown death in Cambodia and treacherously attacked Vietnam and the murderers of North American Negroes.

The maneuver, in addition to being clumsy, has no originality at all. In the same way that the Nazis tried to put the blame on the communists for the burning of the Reichstag, today the Yankee imperialists are trying to deform reality and attribute to the revolutionaries the terroristic character which only the forces of reaction have monopolized over the years.

12,116

CSO: 3010/1071

PINOCHET, CHILEAN CONSTITUTION, REAGAN SCORED

Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 13 Mar 81 p 4

[Column by Maneul Enrique: "Bare"]

[Text] Augusto Pinochet is finally a constitutional president. What do you think of that?

After a scandalous farce of a plebiscite, he took the office which he has held since he crushed Chilean democracy, and is already installed in La Moneda Palace, which was destroyed and bathed in blood by his followers in 1973.

His first official act was most significant: a Te Deum in Santiago Cathedral, where Catholic prelates, Lutheran ministers, Pentacostal preachers, the Chief Rabbi of Chile, and leaders of the Salvation Army, met to praise him.

These people, under the ironic smile of the Chilean tyrant, prayed for peace, freedom, understanding among men, and the success of the military regime in its latest stage of oppression.

After reading the Gospel, Cardinal Raul Silva Henriquez asked the people to pray for the church, peace, the government, and accord among all Chileans.

When he took the oath for another 8 years, Pinochet confirmed his fascist intentions. He said, "The partisan and union oligarchies and branches have ruined Chilean democracy. The depressing spectacle of government powerlessness in the face of those groups will not happen again, and the authority of my government is pledged to that.

"The constitution," he said, "endeavors to prevent the political activity of doctrines which attack the basic values of our tradition or which encourage violence and confrontation, and to do this, legal orders have been given and will be carried out for civil and military justice and codes of behavior which facilitate action by the security forces."

As you see, the Chilean henchmen will be able to operate within a framework of constitutional legality.

The message from the tyrant to his proteges and protectors could be no clearer. He promised them, "You may be absolutely certain that I will continue to fight until I achieve complete eradication in my country of that blot on contemporary society."

The tens of thousands of murdered, missing and imprisoned people he has in his power can testify that Pinochet scrupulously keeps his promises to domestic and international reactionaries.

In his speech, he referred to the new president of the United States, Ronald Reagan.

"The free world," he said, "revives full of optimism and hope, with the reappearance of a strong, tough leadership after such a long time when those in power demonstrated unforgivable lack of direction and weakness. Seven years ago we were alone, and today we are part of an outright world (anticommunist) tendency."

Pinochet feels safe. He has orchestrated the legalization of arbitrariness, degradation and crime, received the support of the most reactionary sectors of the religions represented in his country, and has a sure protector in the White House.

He needs just one thing, the support of the people, which he has not been able to get in the confessionals of the dungeons and the loneliness of the cemeteries.

In short, this insolent dictator will be remembered in history as only a bad dream.

8587

CSO: 3010/1057

PUERTO RICAN DECISION NOT TO HOST CENTRAL AMERICAN GAMES SCORED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 16 Mar 81 p 4

[Article by Alfonso Nacianceno: "Sports, the Right of the People"]

[Text] The clumsy trick by Carlos Romero Barcelo, governor of Puerto Rico, has met its final fate: failure. He thought he could fool public opinion with the story about excessive costs of the Central American and Caribbean Games, and now he will have to imitate the ostrich in putting his head in the sand.

The response was not long in coming. Cuba, loyal follower of the purest goals of the Olympic movement against every maneuver to dash the noble dreams of the great mass of North American athletes, has taken a step forward in announcing its willingness to organize the 14th Central American and Caribbean Games in August, 1982.

In the midst of such dirty tricks by the Puerto Rican politicians, we must point out the pure and honorable figure of German Rieckehoff, president of the Puerto Rican Olympic Committee, who on more than one occasion spoke of the possibility of keeping the date with one-fourth of the \$16 million boasted of by Romero Barcelo.

The athletes coming to Cuba the summer of next year will not find luxurious facilities or expensive opening ceremonies, but we are sure that at every step they will find a friendly word, the warmth of a people able to succeed in every task the Revolution undertakes. Preparing in 1 year for an event for which a country usually takes 4 years is not easy. However, we are convinced of the rightness of this effort to keep alive the flame of the oldest regional games. The youth of this Central American area and of the Caribbean must not see their athletic aspirations die, as was the case for the North American athletes in Moscow '80, because of an inconsequential and heartless action by an annexationist puppet.

The Cuban people, as they did during the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students and after preparing for the Sixth Summit of Nonaligned Nations, will enthusiastically welcome these Central American Games, as further proof that for us the slogan "Sports: Right of the People" is an irrefutable truth.

8587

CSO: 3010/1057

HAVANA NOTES SITUATIONS IN L.A., AFRICA

Developments in Guatemala

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Feb 81 p 2

[Article by Carlos Mora Herman: "Guatemala 'Now'"]

[Text] Twenty-six years ago a revolutionary process in Guatemala was cut short and the right of the workers to organize and of the people to rule their own destiny was abolished in a bloody and cruel manner.

The U.S. Government, through the Dulles brothers, the United Fruit Company (Fallas' well-known "Mamita Yunai") and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), succeeded in overthrowing the democratic regime of Jacobo Arbenz Guzman with a mercenary invasion headed by Castillo Armas.

In the 26 years since that time, the country has been run by military regimes, with the exception of the period 1966-70, when there was a civilian president, Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro, and he was subordinate to the military.

At that time also more than 70,000 people were murdered methodically and coldly by the power groups to prevent the advance of the revolutionary process in the country.

The deterioration of the Guatemalan situation is becoming more acute every day, and the economic situation has never been so serious as it is at present, as 1981 begins.

The prices of necessities are rising constantly; rates for electricity, water, transportation and other things are also rising; family incomes have stagnated and have been reduced by unemployment.

The flight of capital increases daily, as does the slow strangulation of small and medium business and the heavier tax burden on the people.

In 1979, in monetary reserves in the banks totaled more than 850 million. By the end of 1980 this figure had dropped to less than 300 million, in spite of exchange control.

The victory of the revolution in Nicaragua and the stepped-up struggle in El Salvador have emphasized the contradictions between the people and the government in Guatemala.

The reaction of the military has been to intensify repression and unleash a crime wave throughout the country, seeking to cut off the leaders of the resistance and sow terror among the people, especially the indigenous population. Entire families have been murdered in Chimaltenango, San Juan Ostuncalco, Quezaltenango, and El Palmar, Quezaltenango.

The genocide against the Indians of Quiche, Solala, San Marcos, the south coast and the east has been barbarous.

Union leaders and simple workers have been massacred implacably.

It even appears that Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia, the current strongman in Guatemala, is having a crime contest with his Salvadoran colleagues.

But there is an objective reality which is impossible to ignore: repression and genocide have not been able to stop the revolutionary advance of the people.

On 24 February 1979, the Democratic Front Against Repression was created, to include 168 organizations, such as the Committee for Peasant Unity, the Robin Garcia Revolutionary Student Front, the Committee for Justice and Peace, the Committee for Union Unity and others.

There is a very significant phenomenon in the Guatemalan process: the integration of the Indians into the mass movement and the armed struggle.

This sector makes up 60 percent of the population of Guatemala, and its participation in the struggle for liberation is essential for revolutionary victory in the country.

They have been joining the Committee for Peasant Unity, the National Central Workers Organization and also the armed movement.

The most reactionary sectors of Guatemala have great hopes because of the rise to power of Ronald Reagan in the United States.

The entire interventionist apparatus of the Washington government has been improved, expanded and reinforced in the last few months of 1980 and the early part of 1981.

The search for magic "formulas" for a so-called "democratic opening" in those places where military repression no longer guarantees the preservation of the status quo has caused the brains on the Potomac to work feverishly, first under Carter and now under Reagan.

As a last resort, direct intervention, aggression and the spectacle of Marines and their bayonets treading on Central American soil still remain.

But if this should happen, we would see what was written by Indian hands in the "populvch," sacred book of the Guatemalan Quiches:

"Let every man arise, let everyone be called. Let there not be one or two groups which stay behind the rest."

Namibia, SWAPO

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Feb 81 p 21

[Article by Miguel Rivero: "Response to a Challenge"]

[Text] This year should be marked by a bitter diplomatic and political struggle to have the people of Namibia exercise their right to free determination. A report at the end of November 1980 by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim indicates that the process leading to free elections should begin in March 1981 under UN supervision and that that territory should achieve its total independence by the end of this year.

The territory of Namibia, more than 820,000 square kilometers in area and with a population of barely 2 million, is illegally occupied and ruled by South Africa.

According to a resolution approved on 27 October 1966 by the UN General Assembly, South Africa had not complied with its obligations under the mandate of the society of nations, nor had it assured the moral and material well-being of the people, who in fact had repudiated the mandate.

At that time the General Assembly, by a resounding majority of 114 votes in favor to only 2 against, with 3 abstentions, resolved that the mandate given to South Africa for provisional administration of that territory was ended, and that from that time on, the territory called Southwest Africa (Namibia) would become a direct responsibility of the United Nations. Nearly 15 years have passed, and the Pretoria government has used all kinds of pretexts and subterfuge to evade the UN mandate, in open defiance of that international organization.

The 15-member Security Council has been studying the Namibia question since 1968.

In 1970 the council declared the continued presence of South African authorities in Namibia to be illegal, and in 1974 it unanimously asked that South Africa withdraw from Namibia.

In 1976 the Security Council agreed, also unanimously, that "in order for the people of Namibia to decide their own future freely, it is imperative that free elections be held throughout Namibia, which is considered a single political entity, under the supervision and control of the United Nations."

But the Security Council and the UN General Assembly have not been the only international agencies to make their position on Namibia crystal clear. The International Court of Justice, with headquarters in The Hague, in a consultative opinion requested by the United Nations, also said that "because the continuation of its presence is illegal, South Africa has the obligation to withdraw its administration from Namibia immediately and to end its occupation of that territory."

Although there is no question that on the level of international legislation everything favors the free determination of the Namibian people, we must not for that reason ignore the maneuvers being prepared by the Pretoria government to delay the granting of independence and particularly to undermine the prestige of the Southwest African People's Organization (SWAPO), which has been recognized by the United Nations as well as by the Nonaligned Countries Movement as the only authentic representative of the Namibian people.

The racists in Pretoria are trying to present to public opinion the so-called "Turnhalle Alliance" as a recognized political organization and to place it on an equal footing with SWAPO in the UN-sponsored negotiations.

Everyone knows that the members of that alliance are tribal chiefs who have been paid large sums of money by the South African Government to play the role, of which they are unworthy, of "representatives of the Namibian people." In this regard the Sixth Summit Conference of Nonaligned Countries, meeting in Havana in September 1979, stated its position clearly in the following manner:

"The establishment by the apartheid regime of an illegal and arbitrary 'National Assembly' in Namibia for the purpose of advancing down the road to a so-called internal solution was denounced vigorously by the heads of state and of government meeting in Havana. The conference declared categorically that the nonaligned countries will not recognize or cooperate with the illegal 'National Assembly,' nor will they recognize any puppet regime that South Africa might establish in Namibia contrary to the provisions of the resolutions of the United Nations, the OAU and the Nonaligned Countries Movement."

It is well known that the racists in Pretoria are characterized by their vain attempts to stop the course of history. But they should take into account such recent examples as that of Zimbabwe, where they also tried to impose a phantom government and give a boost to Bishop Abel Muzorewa.

However, when the time came for the elections, the people of Zimbabwe voted almost unanimously for the Patriotic Front candidates, and in April 1980, Robert Mugabe proclaimed independence.

Doubtless SWAPO also will have to face dilatory maneuvers and attempts to subvert its rights as recognized in international forums. But there is no doubt that the time is drawing near to end the open challenge to the international community represented by the obstinate position of the South African regime in the case of Namibia.

If SWAPO reaffirms its unity and demonstrates firmness in the defense of its principles in its negotiations with South Africa, if the progressive and Front Line countries strengthen their support of the Namibian people, 1981 could be the framework for the birth of a new African state. It will be the year of Namibia's independence.

Nicaraguan Economic Picture

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Feb 81 p 58

[Article by Jose Bodes Gomez: "The Debt to Nicaragua"]

[Text] The growth rate of Nicaragua's economy during the last year and a half has surprised many specialists in Latin America and has even impressed international experts who have been little disposed to recognize this type of progress in under-developed countries.

A few months ago a group of technicians from the World Bank toured the country and in their talks with Nicaraguan officials made a very positive evaluation in their report on the visit.

The Sandinist Government's optimism was fully confirmed when at the end of last year the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) reported that in 1980 Nicaragua had achieved a growth rate of 14 percent in its Gross National Product, the highest of all the countries. In that year the average for the region was 5.3 percent.

Nicaragua has risen from "the bottom of the barrel" in which the Somozist dictatorship left it submerged. The 130,000-square-kilometer area of its national territory was for almost 5 decades a family fiefdom, and when the national treasury was adversely affected, as it was in 1972 by the effects of the earthquake, the private fortune of the Somozas continued afloat, forcing other oligarchs to tighten their belts.

However, things went from bad to worse as the war extended throughout the countryside and even into the cities. The battles unleashed by the Sandinist National Liberation Front against the Somozist Guard were depleting government reserves, and international banking institutions had to come to its aid. In April 1979, a few months before the people's victory, the International Monetary Fund, trampling its own precepts under foot, granted Somoza a 65-million-dollar loan.

The dictatorship left a devastated country and a ruined economy, but it also left a foreign debt of 1.6 billion dollars, under the weight of which it might be thought that it would be several years before the country would be able to recover.

Nicaragua was indeed able to count on two things: first, the people and their revolutionary vanguard, the Sandinist Front, and second, international solidarity.

The men and women who had struggled for long years to achieve their freedom immediately turned to reconstruction of the economy as their priority task, along with the defense of their recently won sovereignty--because it is necessary to point out that the new Nicaragua does have enemies: the reactionary elements within who were caught in the hour of the people's victory and who are already beginning to show their claws, and overseas the Somozist guards who fled to neighboring countries or sought refuge in Miami. But in addition, it has had to develop a very subtle but firm policy to counteract the interference of the monopolies and the most hostile circles of imperialism.

The recent negotiations with Standard Fruit are a good example of the way in which the Sandinist government is defending the national interests. The banana monopoly had organized a complicated mechanism in Nicaragua to ensure its profits. The lands were leased by a network of subsidiary firms, and these firms sold the fruit to the powerful American company. Neither the owners of the plantations nor the intermediaries, much less Standard, accepted responsibility for the vile conditions in which the workers lived. The government did away with this web of interests and has established the Banana Production Enterprise, which leases the land and is improving the living conditions of the workers, while at the same time negotiating prices with the foreign sales firm.

Nicaraguan agriculture has demonstrated a truly admirable power of recovery. In the last agricultural season the production of cotton--a basic category of exports--quadrupled in comparison with the 1979-80 season. The coffee harvest was nearly 1.5

million quintals. Sugarcane was unable to reach the goal predicted in the annual plan, but the rise in prices on the international market gave the country some 80 million dollars. All the production goals for basic grains (corn, rice, beans and sorghum) were reached. Livestock also made its contribution, with an income of more than 65 million in foreign exchange.

One of the most outstanding results the country can point to for the entire region is the reduction of inflation from 60 percent to 35 percent between 1979 and 1980, while the average inflation rate for Latin America continues above 50 percent.

International solidarity has filled some of the people's pressing needs, since thousands of families were homeless, and their diet--traditionally deficient--was threatened by a scarcity of basic grains. However, the effort of the Nicaraguan people actually deserve more assistance.

Donations received from July 1979 to December 1980 totaled 188 million dollars. The United States, with all its economic power, gave only 22 million dollars, and the underdeveloped Latin American countries contributed 36 million dollars. Little Cuba contributed 10 million dollars, not counting its cooperation in teaching, health and other areas. Western Europe outstripped its capitalist friends on this side of the Atlantic and gave 48 million dollars. The United Nations and other international agencies complete the list.

Although it may seem strange--to put it kindly--in political circles of the United States there are some very exalted personages--like the brilliant ambassador to the United Nations, Jeanne Kirkpatrick--who, just as in the era of the most strident McCarthyism, propose cutting off aid to Nicaragua if it continues its policy of revolutionary changes.

8735

CSO: 3010/1031

JULIO CAMACHO TRACES WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 10 Mar 81 p 2

[Speech by Julio Camacho Aguilera, Politburo member and Havana City party first secretary, at main ceremony marking International Women's Day held at the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] Lazaro Pena Theater, 8 March 1981, Year of the 20th Anniversary of Giron]

[Text] Comrade Vilma Espin,

Comrades, members of the Politburo and alternate members,
Men and women comrades, members of the Central Committee,
All of you, men and women comrades, gathered here today to mark this great date of 8 March!

As years go by, International Women's Day has become a fine tradition that clearly conveys the people's gratitude toward women, our inseparable companions in the revolutionary work, for their total and vital dedication to the task of building the socialist society.

At the workplace and in their homes, women are given the love and respect which they have earned with their daily struggle raising their personal prestige and their revolutionary attitude.

From Guarina to Celia, Cuban women have set the pattern with their history of rebellion and fighting spirit in the hours of glory of our fatherland.

In the 19th century, when our country was engaged in a bitter fight to win its national independence, there were women who did not hesitate to embrace the cause of the Mambises and rose to that historic occasion in defense of their rights, in defense of their children's rights and security.

Not only were they heroic and courageous in battle, they were also capable of determining the goals for which they were fighting proving that they were clearly aware of what they were doing, of why and for what purpose they were acting. Not only they were ready to sacrifice their lives, but, in the opinion of Marti, the fine gesture of Mariana Grajales shows that they also sacrificed their sons to the just cause of a necessary war.

While these events were taking place in Cuba, the ideological theory which was to be instrumental in the struggles of the international workers movement was germinating in other parts of the world and this movement included women who later became a universal symbol for women in this century.

International Women's Day was established to let the world know about women's struggles, to develop the movement of solidarity with women and so that women who are still keeping out of that struggle for emancipation and equality feel encouraged to join it.

The solid barriers created by ideas and deeply rooted traditions have been gradually pulled down by women's own attitudes and determination. We cannot forget that, in this respect, a distinctive feature of the capitalist society consists in keeping women in an underprivileged position, confining most of them to domestic tasks.

In that society, culture, science, politics and many job-related activities are not within the reach of women who are discriminated against and exploited. Therefore, it is not surprising that intellectual development is restricted to just a minority of women.

This is why Marxism-Leninism was very important since it gave women an ideological basis which became their fighting banner.

The conditions enjoyed today by women in the socialist world are the best incentive for the cause upheld by progressive and revolutionary women all over the world.

With the triumph of the revolution in our country, it is quite common to find a long list of women who are labor heroes in the various spheres of science, technology, production and culture.

We find them in the field of sports winning gold medals in a number of events. They are found in the complex activities of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR]. They are doing night watches in the streets and at worksites. They are engaged in humanitarian health work, in the creative educational task of training the young people, in the loving care given at children's centers, in universities, where they learn and teach, in the planning and building of everything that is new. We find them scattered all over the world putting proletarian internationalism into practice by doing all kinds of work in the interest of mankind, sacrificing their own wellbeing to bring their love and their knowledge to the most remote and needy areas.

Today, we send fraternal greetings to our women comrades wherever they are. Each one of them is in our thoughts and we duly praise their attitude for the sacrifices which, we know, many of them are making to fulfill their desire to take part in the creative, humanitarian and revolutionary struggle.

There is no more suitable occasion than the present to remember Clara Zetkin, tireless communist militant and steadfast defender of women's rights who, in the already far-off days of 1910, fostered the idea of holding this day and fought

for it. History sanctioned her efforts and, today, everywhere in the world millions of voices and hands rise in celebration; in many places, this date is marked as a day for people's joyful celebration, in others as a day of struggle for equality, for social emancipation and for national liberation. Everywhere, it is a vibrant plea for the future.

In our land, the days when the organizations of women and workers marked this date in clandestinity or on a small scale are behind us. The bourgeois society which banned or placed restrictions on its celebration was swept aside by the people's victory of 1 January 1959 which brought workers and peasants into power and thus created the basic premises for the full equality of women and turned this date into an occasion to reaffirm our revolutionary commitment.

But the road leading to the full exercise of women's equality has not been an easy one; our revolutionary experience has taught us that to eliminate the capitalist production relationships, to do away with the exploitation of man by man and to proclaim the rights of women does not mean that the principles of the revolution have been observed.

Although the revolutionary drive makes it possible to abolish discriminatory institutions and practices within a short time, it does not erase from people's minds the prejudices and traditional concepts passed from generation to generation through our cultural heritage. The problem arising in connection with women confronted with the social revolution is the need to transfer the mentality of a period and to foster a mentality where there is no room for either feminist frivolity or outdated macho mentality, both of which are forms of discrimination against women in our days.

This struggle has been going on for many years and we will persevere until each and every member of our society understands women's problems, their distinguishing characteristics and their role in our society.

Socialism makes it possible for the individual to display his creative capabilities and guides him in his effort to fully develop his unlimited potential. This objective is even more important when it involves women who must fight and work to claim their place as active and equal members of society where they have stopped being a deprived group to become one which plays a leading role in all the battles fought to create a new world where everybody will be happier.

The struggle for full equality for women is one of the revolution's finest battles. It is a battle where the main engagements were won, above all, as a result of our women's attitude, when in an unassuming but firm way they claimed their right place and, in Fidel's own words, carried out a revolution within the revolution.

On an international scale, the struggle for women's liberation is constantly on the rise, particularly as a result of women workers entering the production sector, a development which fosters their integration into society's life, makes them become more aware of their problems and encourages women, together with progressive organizations, to try harder to win their trampled rights.

Today, women participate in the production of a third of the resources but in the capitalist countries women who work receive lower salaries, do not enjoy the required legal protection and, in many ways, their problems are disregarded. Since women are playing an increasing economic and social role, their influence has grown and people listen to them more and more every day.

The international situation today is a very turbulent one because the imperialists are engaged in a wild armament's race which creates new threats to world peace and presents mankind with the uncertainty of an outbreak of war of untold consequences for its survival. To oppose these trends is an urgent task for the progressive and peace-loving forces and specially influent among them are women's groups and organizations from each country and those who work in the international arena.

These groups and organizations must be instrumental in mobilizing public opinion and must bring all their efforts to fight against reactionary and warmongering trends in defense of peace, peaceful coexistence and cooperation between all countries.

In that struggle, women must play a leading role since nobody wants more than they do to see a world and a future guaranteeing the fate of their children and securing their happiness. Women, endowed by nature to give life, value this more than anybody else.

Because it is indissolubly linked to the problem of peace, the development issue is being faced by progressive organizations and particularly by women's organizations representing a group highly sensitive to that issue.

If no solution is found for the most urgent problems and if imperialist countries persist in their current behavior, there is a danger that a large proportion of the world population will continue to live under conditions of poverty in the next century. Latin America alone has 100 million impoverished people and by the year 2000 their number will reach the 600 million mark in the so-called Third World.

It is a terrible paradox to see that the military expenditure for just 1 day would be enough to finance the entire antimalaria program in areas of the so-called Third World where, in some countries, one infant out of four dies before his first birthday--countries where 8 million children under the age of 5 die every year from diseases caused by drinking polluted water. As long as people continue to live under such terrible conditions, there will be no peace. As stated by Fidel: "Without development there will be no peace."

The present situation is filled with danger for our country which does not and cannot remain indifferent to it, particularly since the new administration in charge of the United States Government is following its electoral campaign statements by openly launching into the well-known routine of threats and aggressions against Cuba.

Confronted with imperialist arrogance and supremacy, our people, and our women in particular, have reacted swiftly and vigorously, coming forward when Fidel

called on them to increase production and raise defense and they have joined the ranks of the Territorial Militia (MTT) with determination, thus helping to build a new and strong line of defense for the socialist fatherland. Now, we already have tens of women's units getting ready to defend our revolutionary gains.

Our history bears witness to the heroism and determination of Cuban women who always rose to the occasion in times of difficulties and who have stood up in the moments of danger displaying a spirit of sacrifice which can withstand any test. With their heroic conduct, Cuban women can set an example for the fighters because the women themselves fight with courage and daring.

This thought was in our minds when we saw the women's divisions marching past. When called to do so, those women fighters will be in the trenches fighting with the men, a fact which will serve to foster mass heroism.

When our national hero Jose Marti was gathering support to organize the war and win Cuba's independence, he said, recalling the courageous emigrant women who accompanied the Mambises in '68: "In front of our women, we can speak of war."

The example set by those women and by their heroic deeds, epitomized by the legendary Mariana Grajales, remains alive and, as the years go by, it becomes more and more important and serves as an inspiration for the present generations of women who, in different ways and in different fronts, are fighting the battles for their liberation.

Today, as our country marks the 50th anniversary of 8 May, it is the right time to remember that, after the fine hours of the Mambises' struggles were over, an awakening of the national consciousness took place in the third decade of this century which was accompanied by a revival of women's organizations. This development meant that women were again participating in the country's political life and increasing their efforts.

From that moment on, women often took part in strikes and demonstrations against the Machado dictatorship. They joined the trade union organizations and the newly created First Communist Party of Cuba.

After this, came the Moncada days, the underground struggle and the revolutionary war which ended with the victory of 1 January. Cuban women resolutely embraced the cause of the revolution and, with typical fervor and passion, they fought everywhere. They were in the rebel army where they conducted themselves as courageous and disciplined soldiers and in the underground movement where they proved to be exceptional fighters. In the last stages of our liberation epic, the outstanding conduct of our women brought vigor to the laurels awarded to the representatives of past generations in the wars of independence.

The names of women heroes occupying a place of honor in the history of our land can be counted by the hundreds and it would be impossible to go through their list during this act of tribute.

This date of 8 March is always dedicated to all our unforgettable women companions as a well-deserved act of remembrance and as an expression of the nation's gratitude. Celia and Haydee, who typify and epitomize these women, will always live in our hearts because, with genuine love, they dedicated themselves to a most just and humanitarian cause, the cause of the humble, outcast and exploited people.

Comrades, men and women:

The work of the female masses who knowingly participate in all the tasks of the revolution, recruiting women into all spheres of social activity and giving their unlimited support to the revolution, is, to a great extent, the result of the serious, patient and responsible work which the Federation of Cuban Woman (FMC), headed by Comrade Vilma, has carried out over a period of 2 decades.

That organization, created on the initiative of our commander-in-chief, fused the revolutionary organizations of women into a single body and, under the guidance of the revolution, set itself as its major goal the struggle to win full equality for women. When we pay tribute to all the Cuban women, we are greeting through them the federation, real leader of their struggle and artisan of their triumphs.

As we present in general lines the work done by women and by their organizations, we keep in mind their enormous influence over the education of the young generations.

In the view of our party, that influence is decisive. Women are, first of all, mothers but they are also educators in the clubs, professors and teachers in the classrooms; a doctor is often a woman and a nurse is invariably one. Society entrusts women with its most valuable treasure which ensures the future of that society and this is why it is exceptionally important to continue working for women's progress in the cultural, technological and ideological spheres.

Regarding the struggle for women's equality, the second party congress has reaffirmed the principles laid down by the party's first large gathering and has endorsed the resolutions issued on the subject by the Third FMC Congress.

The brilliant report presented by our commander-in-chief reaffirms "a determined and firm support for that struggle which will not be abandoned until its historic objective is achieved."

The international character of this celebration of 8 March brings us to ponder over the situation of the women who, in various parts of the world, are fighting, even with weapons, for the liberation of their people; over the women who in some way or other are fighting injustice and oppression. To all of them, we address our congratulations and our wishes of success in the struggle to achieve their lofty aspirations.

On this date, our special greetings and the expression of our solidarity go to the women of El Salvador and Guatemala who are fighting a decisive battle for their country's independence.

We greet the women of Angola, Ethiopia, Nicaragua and Grenada who are working to build a new world and the women of Namibia and Puerto Rico who are resolutely fighting for independence. We greet all the women of the socialist camp and the Soviet women who fought for the triumph and consolidation of the first socialist state.

Long live International Women's Day!
Long live the Federation of Cuban Women!
May Celia and Haydee live forever in our hearts!
Fatherland or Death,
We shall win!"

8796

CSO: 3010/1047

MILITARY ENGINEERING CAREER, COURSES ANNOUNCED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 3 Mar 81 p 3

[Article by Georgina Jimenez]

[Text] Engineers will be graduated in this specialty in the Tactical Command of Engineering Troops. They will study in the General Antonio Maceo Joint Arms School in Ceiba del Agua, Havana province.

Engineering troops have responsibility for providing combat units with bridges, roads, fortifications, ensuring passage and if necessary forcing through obstacles, whether these are manmade or natural, camouflage of troops, and water supply.

The officer in command of these troops must have the degree of engineer in the use of engineering machinery. This military specialty requires training for 4 years. The subjects which it involves are divided into four academic cycles: in the cycle of basic sciences are included mathematical analysis, linear algebra, probability, general physics, general chemistry, and the Russian language; the subjects belonging to the cycle of military technical material include, among others: fortifications, engineering obstacles, internal combustion motors, military bridges and roads, water supply, and camouflage. Among the subjects in the cycle of general engineering preparation are: descriptive geometry and sketching, electrotechnical studies, thermodynamics, machine parts, and others. As in the case of the other military specialties, future officers in this field will take courses in the social sciences cycle, such as philosophy, political economy, international relations and psychology.

The future engineer in this specialty will be graduated with the rank of lieutenant and will have engineering units under his command. He will later attend military academies in Cuba and in the USSR and obtain scientific degrees.

These officers, like the rest of the officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], will advance technically and professionally through the combination of studies in courses at different levels and the exercise of command.

Ways to Apply for Scholarships:

- through the directors of preuniversity or polytechnical centers;
- through the Society for Patriotic-Military Education (SEPMI) in each province;

--for enlisted men and sergeants, through their respective commanders or their deputies for political work.

Young men who desire to obtain more information can request it from the SEPMI in their province or directly to: Gen Antonio Maceo FAR Joint Arms School, Ceiba del Agua, Caimito, Havana Province.

Requirements for Entry:

- be physically and mentally suitable;
- be at least 16 years old and no more than 21 years old;
- be unmarried;
- have completed approved, preuniversity school level (or be a middle level technician in specialties similar to this career).

5170

CSO: 3010/1067

ENGINEERING CAREER IN MOTORIZED INFANTRY ANNOUNCED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 12 Mar 81 p 2

[Article by Georgina Jimenez]

[Text] Young men graduated from preuniversity studies or who are qualified as middle level technicians in related specialties (such as electronics, telecommunications, and other areas related to automotive mechanics) may apply for scholarships to study the tactical command of motorized infantry troops at the Gen Antonio Maceo Joint Arms School and graduate as engineers in the use of automobile technique and with the rank of lieutenant.

The more than 40 courses which the student will follow in his specialty during the 4 years the course will last are classified in four cycles: social sciences, military and special military sciences, basic sciences, and general technical subjects.

Among the subjects in the basic sciences cycle are: mathematics, descriptive geometry, physics, metals resistance, science of metals, and hydraulics. In general, the courses included under the heading of general technical subjects make it possible for the future officer to know the structure and technological procedure for the construction of any wagon, transporter, armored unit, and truck, among other things, and their use involves the subjects of maintenance, repair, and the knowledge of documentation, which permits the systematic control of the group.

Once graduated as an engineer and with the rank of lieutenant, he will exercise command in units of motorized infantry, directing the correct use of the technical material under his command and instructing and educating the personnel of the unit. The rest of the specialties will be subordinated to him.

Like all of those graduating from officer training centers, those interested will have unlimited prospects for development, for they can take other, higher-level military courses at the Gen Maximo Gomez FAR Academy and at academies in the USSR and also can obtain scientific degrees.

Ways to Apply for Scholarships:

- through the directors of preuniversity or polytechnical centers,
- through the Society for Patriotic-Military Education (SEPMI) in each province;
- for enlisted men and sergeants, through their respective commanders or their deputies for political work.

Young men who desire to obtain more information can request it from the SEPMI in their province or directly from: Gen Antonio Maceo FAR Joint Arms School, Ceiba del Agua, Caimito, Havana Province.

Requirements for Entry:

--be physically and mentally suitable;

--be at least 16 years old and no more than 21 years old;

--be unmarried;

--have completed approved, preuniversity school level (or be a middle level technician in specialties similar to this career).

5170

CSO: 3010/1067

PREREQUISITES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ANNOUNCED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 5 Mar 81 p 3

[Article by Georgina Jimenez]

[Text] At this time of preparation of academic marks and the filling out of the request form for educational specialties, it is necessary for all concerned, including students, parents, members of admission boards (including the director of the center, who presides over it), and members of student organizations who provide support for these tasks, to contribute to the greatest possible efficiency in each of the phases of the process.

If the application forms and the academic average of each student do not come out correctly from the preuniversity institutions, this will affect the work in the provincial committees, where they have to take care of the thousands of cases in the province. If the error is not detected there, it will be necessary to correct it in the Directorate of Statistics and Automated Systems of the Ministry of Higher Education, where the forms from the whole country are processed by computers. This makes it necessary to search, within a short period of time, among the thousands of names and see where the error was, which affects the conduct of the work, creating unnecessary tension.

In this respect, the youth themselves should contribute, concentrating very carefully on two aspects: 1) whether the student's academic average is properly prepared, including even hundredths of points. The student should be sure that the mark listed for each assignment corresponds to what he obtained as well as that the calculation of the average (this is the sum total of the points obtained, divided by the total number of assignments to be considered) has been properly done; 2) whether the listing of the 10 specialties which the student applies for corresponds to the order of his preference.

With regard to the first aspect, most appeals which have been submitted in previous years have been raised some time after the student signed his name at the bottom of the notification of his average in preuniversity school, thereby assuring all concerned by that means that he was fully in agreement. If one has to ask for explanations from the admissions committees in those centers and then in the province for the student's work, one should also ask these young people for them, as they are now old enough (the minimum age of a graduate of preuniversity school is, in general, 17) to look carefully at each one of their marks and to determine whether the addition and division has been properly performed. This is especially the case when the student

only has to watch out for his own case, at so decisive a moment in his life. He will not have his parents at his side then but should pay attention himself and take responsibility for what he signs.

Another problem occurs with the forms on which the 10 requests for specialties have been listed. Generally, the young person only pays attention to the first specialty which he requests and, perhaps, to the second. In not a few cases he later communicates with the Provincial Admissions Committee to ask why they assigned him to a specialty which he did not request. After a search for his application form, among so many others, it is proved that he asked for the specialty as a second or third choice, but he paid no attention to it when he wrote it down. Then it is not a case that "they gave it" to him but rather that he requested it.

It is no less certain that many of these young people are not professionally well oriented in the filling out of forms and that they do not know what is involved in a given specialty and what their prospects for work are, once they have graduated in that specialty. This is very unfortunate. Much still remains to be done in that field and very soon. However, this is a subject for another article.

Nevertheless, it is necessary for the student to take very seriously his responsibility at the time of checking on his average and the specialties which he chooses.

Let all persons concerned contribute to the successful completion of this first stage!

5170
CSO: 3010/1068

REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION NOTED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 16 Mar 81 p 3

[Article by Georgina Jimenez]

[Text] Who will be included in the first and second processing of applications? How will students waiting for the first processing whose academic average is 92 points or higher be handled?

Between now and 6 April, there will take place the first stage of activities related to entry into the school year 1981-82 for specialized higher education for those who will study in this country and for the Pedagogical Detachment. Students in 12th grade will fill out the form designated for that purpose.

Those students whose academic average is 92 points or higher should fill out on the form the 10 specialties which they want, in order of preference; those who have an average below 92 points should limit themselves to writing in on the form their general data and their academic average. The first processing will begin in this way with the forms filled in by students whose average is 92 points or higher. The final results, after having been processed with the help of computers, will be turned over to the preuniversity schools on 21 and 22 May.

From 25 to 30 May processing will begin of the entry forms for the students who are left unresolved from the first stage and for the students whose academic average is less than 92 points and who should have completed the form in which they had provided their general data. This time they should list the 10 specialties which they want. To all those students will be offered the specialties which have not been covered in the first processing.

In the case of students with academic averages equal to or higher than 92 points, who have been waiting for a specialty assignment and who listed the 10 options in the first processing, the Provincial Admissions Committee will assign them places in those specialties which they prefer, provided that their academic average is equal to or higher than the lowest average which has been accepted in that specialty during the first stage of processing.

For example: if the student has an average of 94 points and chooses a specialty in which the student entering with the lowest average had 95 points or more, the student cannot enter. However, he will be able to enter another specialty in which the lowest academic average recorded was 94 points or less.

MAJOR UJC CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS DESCRIBED

Havana JUVENTUD TECNICA In Spanish Nov-Dec 80 pp 10-19

[Text] The crash-projects movement experienced considerable growth in the last 5-year period. This movement witnessed the construction of four new sugar mills; the Las Tunas glass container plant; the Jatibonico white paper mill; and expansion of the Rente thermoelectric plant in Santiago de Cuba. The crash projects are 17 in number and employ 16,500 workers, including 7,084 youths.

The 1970-1980 decade was characterized by the construction in Cuba of large and complex industries which are decisive for the country's economic and social development.

One of the fundamental watershed in the work of the Union of Young Communists[UJC] in this phase of socialist construction is the impetus given to construction projects through the direct action of youths organized into a forward echelon which has come to be called the "crash-projects" movement.

Crash projects are proposed by the National Bureau of the UJC, with the approval of the party, in consideration of their importance to the economy.

There are various objectives pursued by the young construction workers in these crash projects. On the one hand, a suitable selection of young people is made available who are mobilized to complete the personnel staffing of the brigades; and, on the other hand, an effort is made in this way to establish the conditions for high-productivity work.

Since the birth of this movement, major overaccomplishment of objectives has been demonstrated, as well as considerable improvement in quality. Also, a reduction in the cost of construction work and plant setup has been experienced.

Source of the Labor Force

The immense majority of the contingents integrated into crash projects are made up of youths unattached to the work sector, who are mobilized after a careful selection process by the Municipal Committees of the UJC in coordination with the labor offices of the People's Government. The future brigadists are told beforehand about the importance of the work to be done, as well as the responsibility they are assuming once they join the brigade.

Similarly, other youths integrated into the brigades were working in the construction or other sectors, preferably UJC activists or, in the absence thereof, workers proposed by rank-and-file committees of the locality on the basis of their work experience.

Construction work is often performed under difficult conditions, whether because the construction sites are in places remote from the youths' municipalities of origin or because of the geographic location of the work site. One example of this is metallurgical mining development in Moa, a region considered remote.

In many cases, before he joins one of the crash projects, the future construction worker engages in technical studies, which are taught by Technical Training Schools located near the construction site.

It has become a tradition since the inception of this movement that before the various groups are transported to construction sites from their municipalities of origin, there are ceremonies during which representatives of the political and mass organizations of the region bid farewell to the contingents.

There are also welcoming ceremonies at the construction sites during which information is given concerning the nature of the work, living conditions and other topics of interest to the new collective which from then on will be a part of the labor force. Once incorporated, the youths are not part of a special unit but become members of the regular group.

Generally in crash projects there is a goodly number of activists who have before them the task of being trained and seeing to it that others become stronger in labor activities, because of their responsibility to ensure high work productivity, to utilize technology and resources with greater efficiency and to assure high production rates in construction or plant setup.

Emulative Recognition Ceremonies

Emulation is of greater importance in construction projects which have been declared crash projects than in other work sectors. The direct support provided by UJC provincial committees, which pay particular attention to construction work within their territories, makes a noteworthy contribution to these efforts.

Emulative recognition ceremonies at the national level are celebrated every year and are an event toward which construction workers look forward.

Renowned for their display of enthusiasm are the "Special Emulation" competitions between Industrial crash-project personnel and those of the Central Railway, which are held annually.

As soon as a crash project is designated as such, it receives a distinctive banner which it retains until the end of productive activity. The banner is present at all political and cultural ceremonies of the center; and, upon completion of the construction project, is transferred from the rank-and-file committee of the project to the now-operating plant and is given a place of honor as a symbol of continuity of the labor heroism which the youth sector will also maintain in production.

The First Crash Project

The Nuevitas nitrogenated fertilizer plant was the pioneer of all the crash projects. Later, the Mariel cement plant was incorporated in accordance with decisions made by the First PCC Congress which was held in 1975, whose central report provided the following guideline: "complete the following crash projects for our economy: the new cement plant at Mariel, the construction of the cement plant in Cienfuegos, the Havana-Santiago railway, the development of the northern part of Oriente, the Nuevitas fertilizer plant and others."

In compliance with this directive, the Third UJC Congress reaffirmed the will of Cuban youth to carry these projects forward and to do so in such a way that they will be among the best in the country.

In a related connection, every year a group of important projects considered to be support projects is identified. At present, there are 48 priority projects in the 14 provinces.

Combatants Ready for Production

The motive force called "Combatants Ready for Production" could very well be described as a forward echelon within a forward echelon. They number 113 and have 5,760 members, based on the principle of voluntariness and readiness to undertake priority tasks. They have become a force whose initiatives began with the Mariel cement plant and have been generalized progressively to the rest of the construction projects, converting themselves into a worthy vehicle to give impetus to technical-economic projects.

Current Achievements

The following national crash projects have been identified as production victories: the bridge over the Moa River, which was completed 10 months ahead of the programmed deadline; the Cienfuegos cement plant and the Moa support base, both of which were also completed before the scheduled date; the Nuevitas fertilizer plant; the two sugar mills in Pinar del Rio and Camaguey; and the Mariel cement plant for a total of 17 crash projects completed and in production in the last 5 years.

The Central Railway

The Havana-Santiago express railway is one of the best known crash projects because it touches the country from one end to the other. Hundreds of youths participated in this project.

This project has over 500 kilometers of track. Because of its complexity and mobility, this construction project is being handled directly and with special care by the UJC of the provinces it crosses.

An Experience Already Accomplished

The first ideas about what a crash project is came to us from the Soviet Union from which we received reports of the enormous desire of young Komsomols to assist in the building of rail lines from the Baikal to the Amur. This was the great experiment which was taken as a banner by young Cubans to give impetus to development.

National Crash Projects

Nitrogenated Fertilizer Plant, Nuevitas

Cement Plant, Mariel

Cement Plant, Cienfuegos

Central Railway

Batalla de las Guasimas Sugar Mill, Camaguey

30 de Noviembre Sugar Mill, Pinar del Rio

Rio Cauto Sugar Mill, Granma

White Paper Mill, Sancti Spiritus

Glass Container Plant, Las Tunas

Expansion of Rente Thermoelectric Plant, Santiago de Cuba

Havana 1 Thermoelectric Dam, Moa

Expansion of Pedro Soto Alba Plant, Moa

String of buildings, Moa

Mechanical Combine, Moa

Support Base, Moa

8143

CSO: 3010/1154

BELIZE SEEN AS VICTIM OF NEOCOLONIALISM

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Mar 81 p 2

[Article in the column "National Current Events": "The New Colonialism Under a Deceptive Name"]

[Text] One of the characteristics of the new colonialism that has arisen in the shadow of the principle of popular self-determination is subsidized independence. This type of independence allows the dominant power to maintain a certain degree of control over the new states, and gives the latter the feeling that they are enjoying the freedom to decide their vital issues. Thanks to this mechanism, many small nationalities that lacked the necessary means to satisfy their political-administrative needs have been promoted to an "independent" life. If we were to scrutinize each of these cases, we might see that some of them--perhaps the majority--were not in a position to assume the responsibilities and obligations inherent in independence, and that it would have been preferable for the colonial ties to remain intact, or maybe loosened . . . it.

Of course, it is difficult to determine which nation is ready for independence and which is not. Conditions such as the level of civic development, the social, cultural and economic circumstances, and the existence of minorities who are prepared to take on the tasks of political leadership and bureaucratic organization, all must be taken into consideration. But what is more important, because it can lead to insecurity and discouragement, is the presence of an independence movement capable of having some impact on the colonialist structure. Even in situations in which that effervescence is the product of minority groups, once the movement gets underway the masses are willing to endorse the idea, regardless of whether or not the concept of independence and its real meaning are beyond their ken. A reasoned and conscientious opposition to such purposes would end up being labeled unpatriotic, and would be destroyed easily.

Whether these movements are spontaneous or are instigated externally, as has happened with the so-called liberation wars fomented by the Soviet Union, China or Cuba, they have become very popular and prestigious because they are associated with the end of traditional colonialism. They also encourage the disruption of the established order, and provide a context for ideological-political penetration. The principle of self-determination, whose legitimacy could not be called into question because it stems from a noble, universal aspiration, is used by them as leverage, as a smokescreen. To gain the immediate support of the most powerful international organizations, they need only raise the standard of

self-determination; no one stops to consider whether a nation's power to determine its own destiny has a positive basis, or whether the country in question lacks the political and economic elements necessary to justify its ends and underwrite its expenses. It is logical that any human conglomerate would want to control its destiny, and that civilized nations would sympathize with that aspiration. The number of small states under subsidy that have joined the international community seems limitless. Communities that number only a few thousand have interposed their voices and found an echo.

Belize is the latest addition to the list of ministates that have been endorsed by international public opinion. It has enough territory and barely enough citizens to constitute a new sovereign entity, but it lacks the basic element, the ability to meet its budgetary needs, to maintain the administrative apparatus and pay its way in international organizations. That is no obstacle, as we have seen in similar cases. England, under the guise of liberation, has shown a willingness to underwrite part of the national budget and to take on the functions of defense and security for the new state for an indefinite period of time. This is a classic case of neocolonialism, of subsidized independence, which makes a mockery of the conquest of self-determination, and in a way makes it futile. Moreover, there is still the possibility that other imperialist powers will come in with offers of assistance in order to influence decisions concerning the new "sovereign's" actions. As has happened with other national entities subjected to the same process, Belize will become a mere pawn of larger forces, over which it has no control.

Colonialism has not ended, it is obvious; it has simply put on different faces. The new member of the independent community will be a pawn, a tool in the frightful international power game. And don't say that there is no basis for this accusation, because in the modern world there simply is no self-determination in the strict sense of the term; there is just a fine, tightly-woven interdependence. While that is certainly the case, interdependence is not the same as dependence. The new pseudo-independent states are nothing but dependent entities, a situation which affects the exercise of sovereignty and the quality of the freedom to make decisions. If the international community were governed by strong principles, these countries would be called by the name that truly fits them, and would be placed on the scale of political-economic dependence. That way we would avoid the masquerade that is going to be carried on in this region, at our expense.

8926

CSO: 3010

BRIEFS

FINANCING FOR HOUSING, BASIC GRAINS--The Monetary Board approved financing amounting to 111.3 million quetzales for agricultural, livestock and industrial activities for the remaining 9 months of this year, as well as 40 million quetzales for housing construction and 5 million quetzales for the promotion of basic grain production. The general objective of the policy is to extend credit from banks and financial institutions to the private sector in order to stimulate the expansion of economic activity without provoking an undesirable imbalance in the foreign sector. Among the measures adopted for this purpose is the creation of a quota of 182 million quetzales in credit from the Bank of Guatemala, so the banks and financial institutions may transfer those funds to the private sector during the year. This amount includes 5 million quetzales for promoting the production of basic grains, which will be transferred to the public at a maximum annual interest rate of 5 percent; and 40 million quetzales for housing construction, with a maximum interest rate of 11 percent for the public. [Excerpts] [Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 1 Apr 81 pp 1, 8] 8926

CSO: 3010

PUBLIC OPINION POLL TO IDENTIFY JLP SUCCESSOR

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 2 Apr 81 pp 1-F, 4-F

[Text] Monterrey, Nuevo Leon--Next week marks the beginning of a public opinion poll to determine whom the people would like to see succeed President Jose Lopez Portillo as president of the republic.

Perfirio Diaz Trevino, vice president of the Social Democratic Party, reported that the survey, to be conducted by the Mexican Institute of Public Orientation, will be carried out simultaneously in Coahuila, Tamaulipas and here in Nuevo Leon, principally in the areas that make up the federal districts.

Diaz Trevino said that this Saturday a group of pollsters will arrive to begin the job of sounding out public opinion with regard to the presidential succession.

He pointed out that the Mexican Institute of Public Orientation conducted a similar survey 5 years ago, and it showed that Jose Lopez Portillo was heavily favored as the most viable candidate for president.

We believe that this poll will be effective, and its results will be valuable, because they will indicate the preferences of the people among the possible candidates for president.

The former delegate of the National Ejido Development Fund (FONAFE) and Agrarian Reform also reported that in late May the Federal Electoral Commission will meet to study the final slates of several political parties.

He said that it is not a good idea to speak of futurism. President Lopez Portillo has said the same thing, indicating that concerns should be voiced openly because it is much healthier to argue about a candidate who has already thrown his hat in the ring, than about those who have secretly said "I want to run."

The representative of the former ACOMPAC [expansion unknown] added that once the final slate is obtained, there can be active participation in the nation's political life, and genuine political movements.

This initiation of Political Reform will also facilitate the strengthening of the democratic system in Mexico, he concluded.

8926

CSO: 3010

MERINO: ECONOMY SOUND DESPITE INFLATION

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 8 Apr 81 p 4-B

[Article by Jesus Ramirez Mendez]

[Text] The Mexican economy is sound, because although it is still a victim of inflation, it is undergoing a period of consolidated growth.

This stage of consolidation is being dealt with by adjusting strategies and regulating the pace of the economy, asserted the secretary of the Public Account Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, Jose Merino Manon. He stated that "Mexico's financial debt situation is favorable."

In this respect, he pointed out that our country is using foreign credit to generate productive activities that create new jobs, so that indebtedness is necessary and good.

The legislator stressed that a clear example of Mexico's effort to use foreign financing to improve the economy can be seen in the large investments that have been and are being made in the oil industry.

Thanks to the proper utilization of loans from abroad, the Mexican economy is moving correctly toward the stage of accelerated growth with controlled and declining inflation and a healthy consolidation, added Deputy Merino Manon. He was interviewed during the solemn session of Congress at which Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins addressed the parliamentary body.

Concerning the constant demands of Mexican industrialists and businessmen that the government give them better incentives for their export operations, or else the reduction of sales of Mexican products abroad will result in a new devaluation of the peso, Deputy Merino Manon stated that this attitude is nothing new. It is always present, because private investors always want more and more advantages.

We must recall that at the beginning of the present administration, the state did not have the financial capacity even to propose longer range actions. But now Mexico has the opportunity to combine a decreasing inflation rate--several times less than that of many countries at a similar level--with its development, and with the maintenance of its public liberties.

Mexican businessmen should understand that we have now left behind the days of unilateral sacrifices, and have begun an era of shared responsibilities. Only in that manner will we be able to consolidate what we have achieved. If we insist on enhancing personal gain, or the progress of certain groups, we will betray the trust of all Mexicans.

8926

CSO: 3010

'YANKEE BONDS' AIMED AT U.S. DOLLAR MARKET

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 6 Apr 81 p 7

[Article by Roberto Rodriguez]

[Text] Madrid, Spain, 5 April--The Mexican economic boom of growth with inflation, and its financial stability, will enable it to place 12 billion pesos in bonds on the U.S. market, and to back up those bonds.

The paper to be issued will be known as "Yankee Bonds," and will be in series of \$100 million each, up to \$500 million in 1981.

The first Yankee Bonds will be put on the market tomorrow, reported Jose Angel Gurria Trevino, director of foreign financing of the General Credit Office of the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP), at a press conference.

The official explained that the bonds will be issued directly by the federal government of Mexico in order to obtain economic resources from world markets.

In response to a specific question from a reporter about how the 12 billion pesos will be administered, Gurria Trevino explained that it will be part of the resources that the federal government maintains to finance the external "component" of the investment and public spending programs.

The issue of the Yankee Bonds on the American market is completely guaranteed and secure, because demand is kept high by modern Mexico's political and financial stability, explained the finance official.

Gurria Trevino commented that the fact that the country has significant hydrocarbon reserves will contribute to the eager acceptance of the bonds in the United States.

He also recalled that the last issue of Yankee Bonds took place in 1977, and most of those bonds were sold.

He stated that the \$500 million in American bonds represent for this country a sort of "postgraduate exercise in obtaining resources," in terms of the acceptance and success of the paper on the American market, the largest in the world.

Gurria Trevino indicated that the issuer is the Mexican Government, and the paper is backed by a syndicate headed by three financial institutions. He added that the term will be 7 years and the interest rate will be 14.75 percent.

AUTHORITIES STEP UP SURVEILLANCE ALONG U.S. BORDER

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 30 Mar 81 p 2-A

[Article by Isaias Colunga]

[Text] The national Attorney General's Office, in coordination with immigration authorities, has stepped up patrols of the border with the United States as a result of the heavy flow of emigrants from this country and other Latin American countries. Large numbers have been arrested in recent days.

The Attorney General's Office, reporting this information, explained that in the first 3 months of this year the Federal Judicial Police arrested more than 500 undocumented persons and their transporters as they were getting ready to cross the border, or in hotels and private homes specifically set up to house people who wanted to get into the United States.

In view of this strong tide of migrants, particularly of adult men and women, the Attorney General's Office has deployed a larger number of Federal Judicial Police, especially in the regions considered to be the most sensitive: Tijuana, Ciudad Juarez, Piedras Negras, Nuevo Laredo and Reynosa.

The increased control has yielded results: A greater number of illegals and the people who transport them (who charge between \$250 and \$400 to get them into any of the American states) have been arrested.

The Attorney General's Office reported that people trying to get to the United States have been nabbed in mass arrests in bus stations; surveillance of those places has been intensified.

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CSO: 3010

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY PROTESTS U.S. AID CUTOFF

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Apr 81 p 5

[Text] To the Nicaraguan people:

We must state that the withdrawal of aid to the Nicaraguan Government by the U.S. Government has caused the PSD [Social Democratic Party] deep consternation but not surprise.

It causes consternation because we know that the withdrawal of these loans will accentuate the difficult economic situation of our people and considerably delay the urgent tasks of national reconstruction.

However, it is not surprising because we have been observing with concern for some time the growing tension between the Reagan administration and the Sandinist government.

The PSD states the following about this situation:

1. That the PSD has always insisted, to the Nicaraguan people as well as in visits that its leaders have made abroad to meet with friendly peoples and governments, on the importance of foreign aid to undertake the tasks of national reconstruction.
2. That, along this line of thought and understanding the harm that a mistaken foreign policy could cause our people, we have always asked the authorities of the Sandinist government--aware of circumstances and the grave responsibility that they have--to put greater effort in a more pragmatic foreign policy. Without weakening our sovereign principles and our national dignity, this would put us in a favorable position to receive international aid and aid from other governments in the Eastern bloc as well as the Western bloc.
3. That, while censuring the suspension of aid to Nicaragua by the U.S. Government, the PSD asks the Reagan administration to correct this position. At the same time, it makes a public request to the Sandinist government, at this time of grave crisis for the country, to proceed without delay to encourage the dialog that it has begun on firmer bases in order to achieve national unity, the only viable road to national reconstruction.

Managua, 2 April 1981
For a revolution in freedom
By the PSD

[Signed] Wilfredo Montalvan, secretary general
Luis Rivas Leiva, political secretary
Guillermo Potoy A., national communications secretary

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CSO: 3010

PSC LEADER SAYS STATE COUNCIL DOES NOT REPRESENT PLURALISM

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Apr 81 p 12

[Interview with Jose Davila, PSC leader, by Adriana Guillen; date and place not given]

[Text] The honesty of government action, the foreign policy and the patriotic interest of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] were analyzed by Jose Davila, leader of the Social Christian Party, in an interview with LA PRENSA.

Davila questioned the trip by a committee for the Council of State formed by: Carlos Nunez, FSLN commander; Luis Sanchez Sancho of the PSN [Nicaraguan Socialist Party]; Plutarco Anduray Palma of the PLI [Independent Liberal Party]; and Carlos Garcia of the PPSC.

The travelers--part of a long list--will visit Switzerland, Sweden, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The announced objective is to request the admission of the Council of State to the World Interparliamentary Union.

Trip

Question: You were a member of the foreign affairs committee of the Council of State so surely you know the requirements for Nicaragua's admission to the World Interparliamentary Union. Do you believe that this trip will be beneficial?

Public Actions

Answer: The trip is unwise because it will not benefit the people or the Council of State. I am referring to the pluralism that the Council of State must represent. This trip will not be beneficial because everyone knows the FSLN work plan.

The actions against the MDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Movement] demonstration in Nandaime and against the Fourth CTN [Federation of Nicaraguan Workers] Congress became public domestically and internationally. These actions do not confirm pluralism in the FSLN or the Council of State.

They cannot think that they are going to create an image of pluralism with the FPR [Patriotic Front of the Revolution] because, even within the coalition, the parties that make up the FPR are excluded by the FSLN.

Does Not Fool Anyone

They are not going to convince anyone since we know that the four parties in the FPR do not represent all Nicaraguans; there is even greater plurality.

If they hope to convince the international public, it is necessary to recall what Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, minister of foreign affairs, said: "It is not easy to fool the Europeans."

Indispensable Election

In his visit to Nicaragua, Dr Caldera, president of the World Interparliamentary Union, was clear about the requirements that the council should fulfill. He said that the Council of State must be based on elections in order to become a member of the World Interparliamentary Union.

Without that requirement, it can only aspire to be an "observer."

As to the benefits for the country, there are none since the travel and lodging expenses for a delegation mean loss of foreign currency and aggravate our present economic crisis.

Political Decision

Question: Then there is no political decision to achieve pluralism, merely to reflect a false image abroad? What would have to be done?

Answer: Instead of those trips that effectively seek to evade the reality of a lack of pluralism, it is necessary to analyze the following situations so that the Council of State be representative:

1. The council must be representative of the national political forces--that is, there must be effective pluralism in that legislative body. When the 11 organizations not aligned with the FSLN withdrew from the council, there was no effort to readmit them in spite of the fact that these situations are considered in every parliament.

2. The "leveling" function inside the council must disappear. Of course, this would be modified with the pluralism indicated above. If there is no pluralism, one signal from the FSLN is sufficient so that the CDS [Sandinist Defense Committees], ATC [Agricultural Workers Association], CST [Sandinist Workers Federation] and aligned parties support the FSLN motion, whether in favor or against someone.

During my experience on the council, some Sandinist representatives confided to me that they did not agree with the FSLN but could not go against it.

3. The Council of State should be autonomous from the JGRN [Government Junta of National Reconstruction]. The JGRN calls it when it wants to and for what it wants. Real parliaments or councils are autonomous.

4. The Council of State has a restricted sphere of action. It cannot discuss the national budget or international agreements or pass on appointments of government officials.

Those conditions must be changed before seeking admission to international organizations.

Question: I understand that the Council of State should represent all sectors of the Nicaraguan people. However, it actually represents the interests of one party, the FSLN. What prospects do you see that the Council of State could be based on elections as it should be?

Answer: Since the Council of State, like other political organizations, originated in the violent revolution that we Nicaraguans lived through, it is understandable that it would have many defects at the beginning. However, to continue them at this point means:

It is the FSLN's intention to institutionalize a limited and defective Council of State, legitimizing the antidemocratic product of a political emergency which does not represent the people but one political party, the FSLN.

There is another alternative which is the right one--to work to consolidate the Council of State as a pluralist, anti-imperialist and highly representative legislative organ with appropriate scope and functions.

Unfortunately, that trip by the committee means the FSLN takes the antidemocratic alternative.

It would be better if the FSLN said that the objective of the trip is to observe the plan of the patriotic fronts in the countries aligned with Soviet socialism, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, which obviously are the most dependent on the USSR.

These patriotic fronts are formed by a communist party and other miniparties that exist in order to legitimize the communist party. They should not claim that they are going to ask something impossible.

Question: What does it mean to you that, while the FSLN presents the FPR to the international community as a coalition representing pluralism, it is calling for the unity of other parties?

Answer: The tactics of organizations based on Marxist-Leninist ideology include acting positively with one hand while the other attacks the same target. To them, this is logical conduct.

The people of Nicaragua and the international community were expecting our process to be an example for the Third World countries. However, the FSLN has gone public in recent months and its actions speak for it. It is a boycott of them.

The FSLN has signed ideological and political agreements with the communist parties of the Soviet countries which only benefit the FSLN and the Nicaraguan people slightly.

It has also signed trade agreements that represent a danger for Nicaragua because they are with countries dependent on Western technology. Nicaragua will become dependent on a dependent country, aggravating the situation.

Nevertheless, we heed the call to dialog because we seek the solution to the present Nicaraguan crisis since the underprivileged, the peasants and the workers suffer the consequences most.

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COMMUNISTS PRESENT PLAN FOR WORKER UNITY AT CSN CONGRESS

Managua AVANCE in Spanish No 41, 25 Mar 81 pp 5, 15

[Program presented by Communist Party of Nicaragua to the Constitutional Assembly of the National Council of Nicaraguan Union Coordination held in Managua on 21, 22 Mar 1981]

[Text] Introduction

Our process has recorded important popular, democratic and anti-imperialist conquests. The mere fact of overthrowing the Somozist dictatorship, dismantling its organs of repression and, in its place, constructing systems of popular democratic power arouses the admiration of the peoples of Latin America and the entire world. These are achievements that, in addition to signifying a legitimate revolutionary victory of the Nicaraguan people, have widened the horizon of the fight of popular and progressive forces on our continent. Nationalization of the banks, the mines, the forests and the fishing industry, confiscation of Somozist assets, the fiscal reforms and the literacy campaign are measures that have given a democratic and anti-imperialist content to the Sandinist revolution.

However, even though some of these achievements have great scope, to the proletariat they are merely the first chapter of the revolutionary transformations for which they fight, the first measures to widen the path of their fight for a socialist revolution. On the other hand, it has been a catastrophe for the bourgeoisie, an avalanche of "radical transformations" that have exceeded the limits of their tolerance. In other words, the revolution has barely begun for the workers, the poor peasants and other popular sectors but, for the capitalists, the revolution has ended and the country and the established order should return to the past.

The idea of defending and advancing the revolution with the "honest" and "sincere" participation of the capitalists is a false notion, an unrealizable thesis. This historical impossibility has been well demonstrated by the experience of all modern revolutions, even our present revolutionary experience.

There has been anticommunist incitement since April 1980 and resignations from the government junta and the ministries. We have heard the capitalist demands of COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] and company and of the reactionary parties and groups and have seen their insolent abandonment of the Council of

State. There have been threats, aggression, pressure and blackmail from the U.S. Government and preparations for invasions of Cuba, Nicaragua and El Salvador by gangs of former Somocist guards and Cuban worms from U.S. territory sponsored and financed by the United States. Military camps of continental reactionaries and Somocists exist in different parts of Central and South America. There have been continual assassinations and attacks, divisionary maneuvers, flattery and undermining intrigues by representatives of the bourgeoisie in the ranks of the government. Businessmen have sabotaged industrial production, livestock development, meat production, harvests of coffee and cotton and every progressive initiative that the GRN [Government of National Reconstruction] promotes. All these conspiratory and aggressive movements and the recent attempts at sedition and power by Robelo and his reactionary acolytes are integral parts of the counterrevolutionary plan that imperialism, supported by Somocism, the native bourgeoisie and mercenaries of different nationalities, is preparing, consolidating and developing.

Modern history demonstrates once more that it is impossible for the bourgeoisie to participate in the contemporary revolution. It is downright utopian to expect their support for changes that benefit the workers.

Events confirm that capitalists are capitalists, eternal reactionaries, incorrigible and contumacious adversaries of the people, capable of the most unimaginable ultrareactionary undertakings to defend their niggardly class interests.

A profound crisis is beginning to shake our process, a crisis that becomes worse each day. The causes are obvious. The "revolution" that the capitalists want does not answer the socioeconomic needs of the proletariat, the poor and landless peasants and the large masses of urban and rural workers. The revolution that the working class fights for is only possible without capitalism and the bourgeoisie and against them.

The time has come for imperialism and the native bourgeoisie to openly attack the revolution, to stop and crush the revolution. The time has come for them to publicly reveal their frank opposition to the process developing in our country and to work to overthrow the revolution in order to restore the infamous order that Somocism maintained. This is not at all unusual. Instead of viewing it fatalistically, it is necessary to understand it as something natural, a problem of the process that must be solved by appealing to the unity of the worker movement, to the class unity of the proletariat and the masses and to the revolutionary mobilization of the people to crush the reactionaries.

We are at the end of the first great stage of the democratic revolution. With this first part, the illusions of the bourgeoisie also come to an end because each and every one of their reformist theses and concepts begin to fall apart facing the invincible force of the objective laws that govern the social development of our time. This includes the deepening of the immense and serious economic and political problems of Nicaragua, the worsening of all social conflicts in our society and the logical advance of revolutionary pressure from the working class and the masses of urban and rural workers who fight for the profound transformations that the difficult situation of the country and the Nicaraguan process demands.

We are sure that, through the unity of our revolutionary forces and based on the working class and the large popular masses, we will defeat the pressures and

attacks of imperialism and the reactionary bourgeoisie. Only in this way can we guide the country on the path to overcoming its enormous difficulties and developing the political revolution in depth and the economic and social transformations that will solve the many serious problems of the proletariat, the large masses of the poor and starving peasants and the broad popular sectors.

Let us form a revolutionary bloc. Let us build up class unity and unity of principles in the worker movement. Let us forge a revolutionary alliance of the working class and the poor peasants. Let us use a profoundly revolutionary, class and proletarian base to construct the most consolidated and broad democratic and anti-imperialist unity of the Nicaraguan people in order to carry out a program of legitimate national and social development in transit to socialism.

The Communist Party of Nicaragua and the Center for Union Action and Unity are absolutely ready and willing to carry out each and every one of the main tasks in this direction. With this objective, we submit the following program of immediate objectives to the consideration of this assembly of the National Council of Nicaraguan Union Coordination for discussion and approval.

Immediate Objectives

Political

1. To fight for the transformation of the GRN into a truly democratic revolutionary government whose base of support is the political power of the workers and the poor peasants in alliance with the progressive intellectuals and other economic and social sectors that choose a clear and truly anti-imperialist position.
2. To fight for maximum increase of the support and active defense of the worker movement and the broad sectors of the people for the revolutionary conquests, the revolutionary process in progress and the fight of the proletariat to extend the revolution to its fullest scope.
3. To fight for the development of unified mobilization of the proletariat and all urban and rural workers against the actions of the reactionary bourgeoisie, the hostile and aggressive policy of imperialism and all foreign reactionaries and the serious threats from groups of former Somozist guards and Cuban exiles who, sponsored and financed by the U.S. Government, train in military camps in the United States and in different parts of Central and South America with avowed plans to invade Cuba, Nicaragua and El Salvador.
4. To fight for the complete integration of the working class, the poor peasants, the youth and the progressive intellectuals in the Sandinist People's Militia based on their own class and mass organizations.
5. To fight for the organic unification of the union movement in a /single workers central/ (in boldface) based on the fundamental principles and historic tasks of the working class.
6. To fight for the solid unity of the revolutionary forces, responsible for the successful defense of the revolution, its conquests and its extension.

7. To fight for the revolutionary alliance of the working class with the poor peasants, moving force for our most urgent social transformations and the socialist revolution for which the proletariat fights.

8. To fight for the urgent expansion of political, economic, cultural, technical and scientific relations between Nicaragua and the Soviet Union, Cuba, GDR, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia and other socialist countries.

Economic

1. To fight for a profoundly democratic and anti-imperialist agrarian reform to serve as a basis for the urgent development that our productive forces and agricultural production relations demand and for the economic and social progress that the country, the urban and rural workers and all Nicaraguan people demand.

2. To fight for the nationalization of cotton, coffee and livestock production as the only certain resource to guarantee the success of the productive process, the efficiency and consistent development of each of these export products and the ability to confront the enormous pressing economic, political and social problems of Nicaragua.

3. To fight for the realization of all antioligarchical and anti-imperialist transformations and measures that are necessary for the economic development of Nicaragua and the social progress of our people.

4. To fight for the maximum increase of production and productivity in all sectors and areas of the national economy.

Social

1. To fight for an in-depth reform of labor legislation based on national development and the social progress of the workers.

2. To fight for strict control of prices of articles of popular consumption, against an increase in the cost of living and for the necessary wage increases for the workers.

International

To fight for the development of the struggle of the worker movement, the people and the state of Nicaragua:

1. In strong and growing condemnation of the aggressive and warmongering policy of the U.S. Government and U.S. aggression against Cuba, the heroic Salvadoran people and our revolutionary process and in solid support to the Soviet foreign policy of peace and social progress throughout the world and for all peoples of the earth;

2. In defense of peaceful coexistence and for the guarantee of world peace and the extension of international detente;

3. In active solidarity for the fight for liberation of the peoples of El Salvador, Guatemala, other Central American and Latin American peoples and peoples of other continents; and

4. In revolutionary solidarity with the peoples and countries of the socialist community, with the international worker movement, with the peoples and countries that have won their national independence and with all the progressive peoples and forces of the world that fight for peace, democracy and social progress.

Government Platform of the Revolution

Sole: On the basis of the objectives and principles stated above, to fight to draw up and put into practice a complete /government program of the revolution/ [in bold-face] for true national and social development in transit to socialism.

Nicaragua, 20 March 1981
Communist Party of Nicaragua

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JUNTA MEMBERS COMMENT ON SIGNING OF 'LETTER OF DIGNITY'

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Apr 81 p 7

[Interview with Dr Cordova Rivas and Dr Ramirez Mercado; date and place not given]

[Text] Immediately after the JGRN [Government Junta of National Reconstruction] and the FSLN commanders signed the "Letter of Dignity," they answered questions from journalists. Dr Cordova Rivas and Dr Ramirez Mercado spoke to LA PRENSA.

Question for Dr Cordova Rivas: What do you expect to achieve with this letter?

Cordova: Well, it is the natural reaction of an indignant people facing the economic aggression of U.S. imperialism.

Question: Yes, but what do you expect to achieve with it?

Cordova: International reaction will unquestionably be in favor of Nicaragua as it already is. This is international support that we have had, more than we expected.

Question: Has this solidarity been translated yet into an IDB loan for 65 million?

Cordova: Yes, we have the loan for 65 million and a number of donations. I believe that we are not going to lack U.S. economic aid in our present situation because it is not logical or natural that one of the largest countries on earth take bread away from a poor country.

Question: Tell me, Doctor, what does the top-level Cuban commission that is here think about this?

Cordova: The top-level Cuban commission--vice ministers--that was here (it has already left) is totally in agreement with the policy of the Nicaraguan Government. However, we do not need the opinion of any government to do our own thing.

Question: But did they give you their opinion?

Cordova: Absolutely. They do not intervene in Nicaraguan policy.

Thank you, Doctor.

Questions for Dr Sergio Ramirez:

Dr Ramirez, could this letter that is being signed be used later to say that Nicaragua is going to be socialist?

Ramirez: Well, Nicaragua will continue to be Sandinist as it has until now, but not socialist. The people will decide that.

Question: But since the letter is signed by the people....

Ramirez: But the people are not saying in this letter that they are deciding on socialism but an anti-imperialist position.

Question: Imperialist against any empire?

Ramirez: Against the empire that is aggressive toward us or attacks us.

Thank you, Doctor.

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MANAGUA POLICE CHIEF DEFENDS ROLE, ACTIVITIES OF POLICE

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Apr 81 pp 1, 6

[Text] The Sandinist Police assumed the responsibility of defending the popular interests even if it means going outside the legal framework that prevents it from developing its work of purification and social correction.

This announcement was made by Commander Enrique Schmidt who explained that Palo Alto cannot hand over any offender because that procedure corresponds to the penitentiary system. In a talk with BARRICADA, which also included Palo Alto officials Elear Rodriguez and Oscar Loza, Schmidt confirmed that the police regulation that empowers police authorities to hold apprehended criminals 180 days will be put into effect.

In the dialog with BARRICADA, a number of problems were explained which, because of confrontations, have been incorrectly publicized--with some political intention --to give the impression that the judicial branch and the police have serious problems of command and mutual respect.

Schmidt pointed out that there has never been a confrontation between the police and the judicial branch. It is a basic structural problem caused by old, inherited legal frameworks that keep both state institutions from performing efficiently in the interest of all the people.

Police Can Judge Criminals

The laws inherited by the revolution do not agree with the present process. The main accusations against the police refer to sentences. They said the following:

Many criminals whom the Sandinist Police have found guilty based on convincing evidence are winning their freedom based on three narrow legalistic concepts that permit crime to hurt the interests of the people.

First, by lack of fulfillment of the well-known 10 days of detention. When an offender has completed that number of days in jail, the lawyers begin to pressure the judges who can do nothing more than dictate stays of proceedings because perhaps the necessary evidence has not been compiled.

The judges frequently do not even read the files since there is very little time. There are talks now with the Supreme Court of Justice to see if it is possible to increase that time period.

Other offenders win their release through provisional stays of proceedings. Recently, "defenders" have been seizing upon Article 11 of the Fundamental Statute on Rights and Guarantees to take the criminals out of jail.

Some Examples

Therefore, while the Sandinist Police tries in every way to protect the collective interests, there is a legalistic framework that is well exploited by some lawyers to do business like get criminals out of jail.

In February of this year, the Sandinist Police placed 127 prisoners under the jurisdiction of the courts, all for proven crimes; however, 40 were released. In December 1980, it was so bad that only 54 of 242 offenders placed under the jurisdiction of the courts by the police received sentences; the rest were released.

In January 1981, 180 offenders were sent to court but the majority were released. The case of the Sears robbers stands out. One of them, Henry Fune, was caught in flagrante with the stolen goods, taken to jail and placed under the jurisdiction of the court. He is already free.

The robbers of the cement plant have also already been released. Where does that leave the judicial branch and the Sandinist Police? What security do the people who are the ones most affected have?

First, Responsibility

With all those arguments, comrade Schmidt brought up the "disrespect" which the police has been accused of. Beyond mechanics and legalism, when the Sandinist Police has sufficient evidence of the crime of the offenders, it proceeds with revolutionary responsibility to the people, condemning those who have committed crimes against the people "even though they accuse us of 'disrespect' for the judicial branch."

The judicial branch should present urgent changes in the penal laws of the country because the police has agreed to assume its responsibility of protecting the people from crime above all else. From now on, the police sentence will rule while waiting for the necessary changes.

Schmidt said: "Questioning of Palo Alto and the Sandinist Police cannot continue from the bench of the accused while the criminal laughs, enjoying the freedom that the legalistic penal framework permits."

People Demand Firm Hand

The police made it clear that that armed body has never been accused of abuse of authority by the people. Rather, the people loudly clamor because a large number of criminals have been released. In one concrete case, a group of women vendors at the Oriental Market demonstrated recently because of the release of some criminals.

It is the people themselves who demand urgent changes in the penal laws and not the police; that is clear. Also the Supreme Court must not view the application of the law merely from a legalistic and mechanical angle because we are living a different process from the past. The people's interests come before any old law.

The judges' schedule should also be revised since they are still working on the old 5-hour schedule while the police do not rest for even a minute in detecting and apprehending criminals and protecting the people.

Also the activities of the shysters who hang around the courts waiting for a "client" to "fall" into their hands so they can earn their fees must be changed.

One Necessary Measure

The police's refusal to hand over released prisoners to lawyers or to interested persons (relatives) was necessary because there is still a sector of lawyers who continue to deceive the relatives of those arrested.

When these have won their freedom, that type of lawyer presents himself to the relatives as the "great releaser of prisoners" and even asks for fees for alleged "payments" to the authorities. That is false; it was a practice encouraged in the past by the corrupt regime but it has been abolished in the police already.

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